

# STARS AND STRIPES.®

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Country singer Julie Roberts

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2005

## Payouts for war deaths seen rising to \$500K

Some officials want same benefits for all service deaths

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Photo courtesy of the University of California, Berkeley

## Future fighters

Amateur builder  
hopes his robotic  
warrior rivals  
DOD creations

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JIM LAVRAKAS/Courtesy of the Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News

Left: The U.S. government, working with the University of California, Berkeley, is developing an exoskeleton designed to improve soldiers' ability to march with large loads on their backs. The project has cost \$50 million so far. Right: Reservist Carlos Owens Jr., at 6 feet 5 inches tall, is dwarfed by the "mecha" — mechanical exoskeleton — he's building at his family's home outside Wasilla, Alaska. The 27-year-old iron worker has been working on his creation since October 2003, spending \$15,000 of his own money. He hopes to debut the machine, with sledgehammer fists and flame-thrower arms, at the Alaska Raceway this spring. Owens envisions military uses for his project.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Church abuse trial:** Prosecutors rested their case against the defrocked priest at the center of Boston's church abuse scandal with testimony on recovered memory, a topic the defense also hopes to tackle.

Prosecution witness Dr. James Chu, an associate professor at Harvard Medical School, said it is not uncommon for adults who suffer trauma as children to repress memories of the experience.

The testimony was an attempt to bolster the account of a 27-year-old firefighter who says he remembered in early 2002 that he'd been repeatedly raped and molested by former priest Paul Shanley from 1983 to 1989.

Following an off day Tuesday, Shanley's lawyer plans to call only one witness — Elizabeth Loftus, a University of California psychologist who has challenged the reliability of recovered memory.

**Jackson jury selection:** Michael Jackson stood and smiled as he faced the first prospective jurors in his criminal trial.

Jackson, dressed in an all-white suit and a jewel-trimmed vest and belt, rose and remained standing as two batches of prospects — about 150 in the morning and another 150 in the afternoon — filed into the Santa Maria, Calif., courtroom Monday. The singer, his lawyers and prosecutors remained silent as Judge Rodney S. Melville questioned the prospects about their willingness to serve.

By the end of the day Monday, Melville had listened to 138 people who asked to be excused, but the only person he dismissed immediately was a woman who was eight months pregnant.

**Children's drowning deaths:** A Colorado woman who told investigators she drowned her two children after receiving a sign from a spider was found not guilty by reason of insanity and ordered to be committed to the state mental hospital for an indeterminate period.

Two defense psychiatrists and another testifying on behalf of prosecutors told a judge during an eight-hour hearing Monday that Rebekah Amaya was insane at the time of the October 2003 drowning.

Amaya, who was charged with two counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of Grace Headley, 4, and Gabriel Amaya, 5 months, had pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity.

**Democratic leadership race:** With Howard Dean rapidly gaining momentum in his bid to become national Democratic Party chairman, the spotlight is turning toward organized labor.

About two dozen members of the AFL-CIO's executive committees were set to meet Tuesday morning to discuss whether to endorse a candidate.

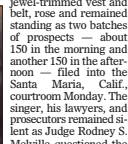
Some Democrats who closely watch labor say they doubted labor would unite behind a Dean alternative with the front-runner surging ahead and labor facing its own internal power struggle.

**New York subway fire:** The cause of a fire that disabled the A and C subway lines in New York City is a mystery, officials said.

Initially, transit officials believed a homeless person set the Jan. 23 fire, which spread to a signal relay room at the Cham-



Jackson



Dean



**Israel's withdrawal plan:** Israeli soldiers detain an activist during a demonstration against the confiscation of Palestinian land for the construction of Israel's separation barrier near the West Bank town of Hebron on Tuesday. Israel is going to slow its planned pullout from five West Bank towns after a day of violence strained an informal cease-fire, and it will stop the process altogether if Palestinians don't halt all attacks, Israeli security officials said Tuesday. Despite the warning, Palestinian militants fired three mortar shells at a Jewish settlement in Gaza on Tuesday, following a barrage Monday.

**Street station:** But police later called the theory premature.

Now fire department officials say there is no information that would lead them to arrive at a particular cause of the blaze.

Investigators have ruled out defective wires and sparks that come from trains.

### World

**South Asia tsunami:** The top U.N. tourism official called Asia's tsunami the worst-ever catastrophe for the world's tourism industry, and Indonesia announced Tuesday that it found the bodies of 1,000 additional victims — more than five weeks after the disaster.

U.N. World Tourism Organization chief Francesco Frangilli told delegates attending a special tourism conference in Thailand that the disaster "was the greatest catastrophe ever recorded in the history of world tourism" because of the high number of tourists and industry workers who died.

**Milosevic war crimes tribunal:** Slobodan Milosevic's nationalist allies demanded on Tuesday that all legal proceedings against the former president's family members be ended.

The Serbian Radical Party said that the charges brought against Milosevic's wife and son in Serbia should be withdrawn because they are impeding his ongoing defense before the U.N. war crimes tribunal.

Milosevic's son Marko fled the country shortly after his ouster and was tried in absentia for threatening and harassing anti-Milosevic activists in 1999. His six-month prison sentence was recently overturned and a retrial was ordered.

Milosevic's wife, Mirjana Markovic, also fled Serbia in 2003.

**Remembering Zhao Ziyang:** A group of dissidents based inside China and overseas said Tuesday they plan to honor ousted Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang with a library and other memorials.

In a statement signed by more than 200 people, some of them prominent intellectuals and lawyers based in the mainland, the group also protested the apparent arrests of several dissidents who it said disappeared after trying to pay tribute to Zhao, who died Jan. 17 at age 85.

"We strongly oppose these outrageous actions by the government and demand that they desist from further such measures," said a statement on behalf of the group by Wang Juntao, an activist and student at Colombia University.

**Naples mob violence:** Paramilitary police

reinforced checkpoints in the suburbs of Naples Tuesday after the mob war that has plagued the southern Italian city claimed four more victims.

Three bodies were found handcuffed in the Casavatore suburb late Monday, said Carabinieri official Angelo Mazzagatti. He said the three were thought to have ties to the Di Lauro clan, a part of Naples' Camorra crime syndicate that has been involved in a bloody battle with a breakaway group in recent months, resulting in several brutal killings.

Earlier Monday, a 63-year-old man, father of one of the members of the breakaway group, was gunned down in a shop, Mazzagatti said.

**Deadly factory explosion:** Managers of a Chinese fireworks factory where an explosion killed 37 people have been sentenced to up to seven years in prison, the government said Tuesday.

The explosion Oct. 4 at the factory in the southern region of Guangxi destroyed three workshops, tore the roofs off nearby houses and left the ground strewn with bodies and rubble, according to news reports.

Three factory managers were sentenced Monday on charges of causing a nuisance using dangerous materials, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It didn't give any details of what caused the blast.

**Iran nuclear talks:** Iran's vice president on Tuesday urged Europeans to speed up talks with his country on its nuclear program, trade and regional security.

"We have to take the negotiations seriously and accelerate them," said Gholamreza Aghazadeh who also serves as head of Iran's atomic energy organization.

Aghazadeh met with the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, amid negotiations the EU hopes will lead to Iran committing to restrictions that will ensure its nuclear program can't be used to build bombs.

**Patient deaths in Germany:** Authorities haven't found evidence that a nurse who has admitted giving lethal injections to 16 elderly patients at a German hospital may have been responsible for another 13 deaths, prosecutors said Tuesday.

After autopsies of 42 former patients, lead prosecutor Herbert Pollert said his team had collected enough evidence to charge the unidentified 26-year-old nurse with the additional deaths.

The man, who remains in jail pending trial, now faces six counts of murder, 22 counts of manslaughter and one case of assisted suicide.

Stories and photos from wire services



Interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer speaks to the media in Baghdad on Tuesday. Al-Yawer said it would be

"complete nonsense" to ask foreign troops to leave the country now, although some could depart by year's end. The ink-stained finger is a sign that he voted in Sunday's election.

## Iraq militants claim to have taken U.S. soldier hostage

BY MARIAM FAM  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi militants claimed in a Web statement Tuesday to have taken an American soldier hostage and threatened to behead him in 72 hours unless the Americans release Iraqi prisoners.

The posting, on a Web site that frequently carried militants' statements, included a photo of what appeared to be an American soldier in desert fatigues seated with his hands tied behind his back.

A gun barrel was pointed at his head, and he is seated in front of a black banner emblazoned with the Islamic profession of faith, "There is no god but God and Muhammad is His prophet."

A statement posted with the picture suggested the group was holding other soldiers.

"Our mujahadeen heroes of Iraq's jihad Battalions were able to capture American military man John Adam after killing a number of his comrades and capturing the rest," said the statement, signed by the "Mujahadeen Brigades."

"God willing, we will behead him if our female and male prisoners are not released from U.S. prisons within the maximum period of 72 hours from the time this statement has been released," the statement said.

The claim, carried on the Web site ansarnews, could not be verified.

A U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad, Marine Sgt. Salju K. Thomas, said he had no information on the claim but "we are currently looking into it."

"There is no indication that any of our people are missing at this point," said Staff Sgt. Nick Minocci, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Iraq, reached by phone in Baghdad.

In a news conference on Tuesday, Iraq's president said it would be "complete nonsense" to ask foreign troops to leave the country now, although some could depart

by year's end. Officials began the final vote tally from elections to produce a government to confront the insurgency.

Despite scattered clashes in rebel areas across the country, Iraq reopened its borders Tuesday and commercial flights took off from Baghdad International Airport as authorities eased security restrictions imposed to promote last weekend's landmark voting.

In Baghdad, about 200 election workers Tuesday began the second — and possibly final — stage of the count. They reviewed tally sheets prepared by workers who counted ballots starting Sunday night at the 5,200 polling centers across the country and began crunching the numbers into 80 computer terminals. Officials said no figures were expected to be released Tuesday.

The ballots themselves have also been sent to Baghdad, but will not be recounted unless there are challenges or discrepancies in the tally sheets, officials said.

Sunday's election, which occurred without catastrophic rebel attacks, raised hopes that a new Iraqi government would be able to assume greater responsibility for security, hastening the day when the 170,000 U.S. and other foreign troops can go home.

During a news conference, interim Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer said asked whether the presence of foreign troops might be fueling the Sunni Arab revolt by encouraging rebel attacks.

"It's only complete nonsense to ask the troops to leave in this chaos and this vacuum of power," al-Yawer, a Sunni Arab, said.

He said foreign troops should leave only after Iraq's security forces are built up, the country's security situation has improved and some pockets of terrorists are eliminated.

"By the end of this year, we could see the number of foreign troops decreasing," al-Yawer said.

Al-Yawer had been a strong

critic of some aspects of the U.S. military's performance in Iraq, including the three-week Marine siege of the Sunni rebel city of Fallujah in April.

Al-Yawer helped negotiate an end to that siege. But the city fell into the hands of insurgents and religious zealots, forcing the Marines to recapture Fallujah last November in some of the heaviest urban combat for American forces since the Vietnam war.

"There were some mistakes" in the occupation "but to be fair ... I think all in all it was positive, the contribution of the foreign forces in Iraq," al-Yawer said. "It was worth it."

Later Tuesday, Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan said Iraq would only ask U.S. and other forces to leave when the country's own troops were capable of taking on insurgents.

"We don't want to have foreign troops in our country, but at the same time we believe that these forces should stay for some time until we are able to control the borders and establish a new modern army and we have efficient intelligence," Shaalan told reporters. "At that time ... we'll ask them to leave."

A former Abu Ghraib guard pleaded guilty Tuesday to battery and two other charges in the Iraqi prison abuse scandal as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors.

Sgt. Javal Davis, 27, also pleaded guilty to dereliction of duty and making a false official statement to Army investigators after photographs of naked and abused detainees were made public last spring.

Davis, from New Jersey pleaded not guilty to two other charges: conspiracy and maltreating detainees. He had been sent to go to trial Wednesday.

The pleas were entered after Col. James Pohl, the judge, rejected efforts by Davis' lawyer, Paul Bergin, to get all the charges dismissed.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Anderson contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

# Death payout may raise up to \$500,000

Senators praise DOD for plan but disagree with limiting changes to only troops in combat zones

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senators and military leaders on Tuesday praised Department of Defense plans to raise death payouts up to \$500,000, but disagreed with limiting those changes to only troops in combat zones.

Changes would raise the current Servicemembers Group Life Insurance ceiling from \$250,000 to \$400,000, and raise the death gratuity from \$12,420 to \$100,000, all tax-free.

Top officers from all four armed services testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee about the proposal, saying it's an important step toward supporting the troops and their families.

Asked about the limits on the proposal, they said they would prefer to see those benefits extended to all active-duty troops and reservists, not just people who die in war zones.

"Their families and children can't make the distinction," said Adm. John Nathman, vice chief of naval operations for the Navy. "I don't think we should either."

Gen. William Nyland, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, said he worries the policy as proposed would exclude troops killed while training to go into combat, or those killed in off-site support roles.

"If a young man or a young lady steps forward and raises their right hand to serve this great nation, I think we have to be very careful about making any distinctions about the kind of service they render," Nyland said.

The Department of Defense would also pay for the first \$150,000 of life insurance for all troops in combat zones. Both that insurance coverage and the death gratuity would be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, to include all troops killed in the war on terror.

The proposals mirror legislation already introduced in the Senate and will be included in President Bush's 2006 budget proposal, scheduled to be submitted to Congress next week.

"There is nothing in a financial sense we can do to replace a lost servicemember," said David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "We recognize that. But we can make their (families') lives comfortable and we can give them the appropriate financial tools to move forward."

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., who is sponsoring a bill with the same provisions, said the changes would cost \$49 million the first year with about \$280 million in retroactive payments. Future costs would depend on the number of deaths.

Several Democratic senators echoed the military concerns about limiting the benefits only to combat deaths, saying it was lawmakers' duty to ensure all servicemembers' families are taken care of financially.

"No finically can replace the life of a soldier, sailor, airman or Marine ... but that doesn't mean our benefits shouldn't be full and generous," said Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. "Obviously I support the increased benefits, but I believe it should be for all soldiers killed on duty."

Chu said the new policy is in specific response to combat deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan, and all families of troops killed while serving are eligible for a host of benefits like housing support, education subsidies and financial assistance programs.

As of Monday, 1,415 Americans had died in the Iraq conflict and 156 had died in Afghanistan and other places designated part of the global war on terrorism, according to the Pentagon.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.  
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### Proposed death benefit changes

	Current program	New proposal
■ Death gratuity*	\$12,420	\$100,000
■ Automatic insurance*	\$0	\$150,000
■ Most insurance		
■ purchasable	\$250,000	\$400,000
■ Tax-free?	Yes	Yes

\*Only for troops in designated combat areas.

# U.S. training Pakistanis in air assault operations

BY JON R. ANDERSON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Special operations forces from the U.S.-led contingent in Afghanistan are now training Pakistani units on helicopter-borne assault tactics, according to top operations officer in the region.

Col. Gordon B. Crawford, the director of operations for Combined Joint Task Force-Afghanistan, which oversees military activities there and in neighboring Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, said the training was designed to help Pakistani forces become more proficient in "air assault operations."

Crawford, speaking with reporters in Washington, did not offer specifics, but did confirm the training was taking place in Pakistan.

Crawford said the training mission comes as leaders have been working to ease cross-border tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's government routinely points to Pakistan, which financed the Taliban's rise in the country, as the source of much of the country's lingering insurgency and other woes.

"There are some problems along the border," he said.

Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the senior tactical commander in Afghanistan, was recently dispatched to Pakistan in the wake of a border skirmish between Pakistani and coalition forces, he said.

As a result of that last little dustup, Maj. Gen. Olson went to Islamabad to talk to Pakistani general officers to make sure it was clear that it was certainly a misunderstanding," Crawford said.

Crawford said Pakistani units have now been given tactical radios to help improve communications between forces on both sides of the border.

"That simple fix has led to very practical benefits."

"The Pakistanis have adjusted our artillery fire into the Pakistani side" of the border, said Crawford. "That's a huge step forward."

Meanwhile, Crawford said, U.S. forces are preparing for the next major rotation of troops in the region. The Italy-based Southern European Task Force will replace the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division beginning in March.

"Certainly one of the most important missions they'll support while they're there is the National Assembly elections," said Crawford.

Slated for this spring, those elections have been repeatedly pushed back and Crawford said it's now likely the polls won't happen until summer as local officials wrestle with delineating district boundaries, among other things.

"What we're going to have to see, and this hasn't been determined yet, is whether the National Assembly elections are going to be held in one day — and this certainly has security implications — or is it going to be rolling-type elections where you might do a few precincts at a time."

Crawford said while overall U.S. force levels would likely remain at more than 16,000 into the year, he said troop presence could spike in the build up to the elections.

"That's the only time you might see levels increase," Crawford said.

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# Delayed attack on skin disease

## Troops unable to be treated in Iraq will be seen by doctors in U.S.

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S.-based military doctors are bracing for a wave of servicemembers returning from Iraq this spring whose treatment for a skin disease has been delayed by the dangerous security situation there.

The soldiers who may be infected with cutaneous leishmaniasis are mostly from the 1st Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division, the Army's "Stryker Brigade," according to Dr. Alan McGill, infectious disease specialist at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md.

"We've heard rumors of a couple hundred cases in the Stryker Brigade," McGill said Friday.

But travel in Iraq is so perilous for U.S. troops that health care staff there are choosing to list suspected cases of the disease go, rather than risk a trip to the large medical facilities for diagnosis, said McGill, the U.S. military's leading leishmaniasis expert.

"Doctors in the field are making some hard choices, because any movement in Iraq places your life in jeopardy," he said.

McGill said he agrees with that decision, because the sores caused by cutaneous leishmaniasis eventually go away without treatment.

"If I were over there, I wouldn't take the risk of sending [a soldier] to [a large medical facility] to treat a skin lesion that's going to get better anyway," McGill said.

Although treatment for some may have been delayed, troops whose skin lesions are serious will be accommodated once their deployments are over, McGill promised.

"The security situation may have prevented a timely evaluation by state-side standards, but as soon as they get home, we are going to take care of them," McGill said.

Leishmaniasis takes hold when infected sand flies bite humans who sleep on the ground or work in very dirty, sandy environments. Human cases of leishmaniasis mostly fall into one of two categories: cutaneous, which causes skin lesions that vary from the size of a pencil head to larger than the bottom of a soda can, and visceral, a far more serious variation which leaves no external marks, instead attacking the internal organs.

Untreated visceral leishmaniasis can be fatal, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

As of Monday, at least 1,433 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,089 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The AP count includes four military civilians and is 18 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; 1,089 in Thailand; 10 in the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,295 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 980 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.



Courtesy of Walter Reed Army Institute of Research

**Laboratory technologist Juan Mendez examines Leishmania major, the parasite which causes leishmaniasis, in cultures under a microscope at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md.**

But sores from cutaneous leishmaniasis "heal on their own, [although] this can take months or even years... and leave ugly scars," according to CDC spokesman Liwelyn Grant.

U.S. military doctors diagnosed about 750 cases of leishmaniasis among troops who participated in the first rotations of Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, McGill said.

Of those, only four cases of visceral leishmaniasis have been diagnosed, two from Iraq, and two from Afghanistan, he said.

Military physicians are expecting fewer cases among troops deployed in the second rotation of OIF and OEF, because most troops now stay in screened, air-conditioned facilities — one of the CDC's primary recommendations for avoiding infection.

To date, WRAIR has received confirmed reports of about 20 cases of leishmaniasis from OIF2 and OEF2 troops, all of which are cutaneous, McGill said.

Nevertheless, "we think that we'll see a delayed buildup of cases in March and April," when second rotation troops begin coming home in large numbers, McGill said. "If we see 100 cases that need [treatment], I would not be surprised."

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## Drug research

Military researchers see the leishmaniasis problem in stark terms: Find a pill soldiers can take while deployed, said Dr. Alan McGill, an infectious disease specialist, said.

The Silver Spring, Md.-based Walter Reed Army Institute of Research has embarked on a five-year Leishmaniasis Research Program to find a new treatment for the skin disease.

Although the WRAIR program is less than a year old, researchers are moving very quickly, McGill said.

"We hope to begin some clinical trials [with experimental drugs] before the end of the year," McGill said.

Researchers there have an annual budget of about \$1 million and a five-year "sunset" clause, according to McGill, head of research at the institute.

"That means we do it in five years, or less," McGill said.

Success is possible in a relatively short time, McGill believes, because basic research in leishmaniasis "has been done 15 times in the last few decades," McGill said. "What we need is to make [treatment] products and get them into the field."

The only drug available to treat cutaneous leishmaniasis is Pentostam, which the Federal Drug Administration classifies as experimental. Patients undergo 10 to 20 intravenous drips with the drug, which only two military hospitals — Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas — are approved to administer.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military "is going to be in leishmaniasis-generating areas for generations," he said. "If you don't we just fix this problem?"

Instead of trying to develop a drug from scratch, WRAIR researchers are working with two commercial drugmakers to see if products they have developed to treat other diseases might also be effective against leishmaniasis, McGill said.

Lisa Burgess

# U.S. deaths in Iraq

The latest deaths reported by the military and the State Department:

■ Three U.S. Marines were killed in combat south of Baghdad on Monday.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department:

■ Marine Capt. Orlando A. Bonilla, 27, Killeen, Texas, and Army Chief Warrant Officer Charles S. Jones, 34, Lawley, Fla.; died Friday in a helicopter accident in Baghdad; assigned to the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Navy Lt. Cmdr. Edward E. Jack, 51, Detroit; died Saturday in a noncombat-related incident aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard, assigned to Commander, Destroyer Squadron Seven, home port San Diego.

■ Marine Sgt. Andrew K. Farrar Jr., 31, Weymouth, Mass.; died Friday in a nonhostile incident in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to Headquarters and Service Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Col. Timothy A. Knight, 22, Brooklyn, Ohio; died Wednesday when the helicopter he was in crashed near Rutbah, Iraq; assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

■ Marine Lance Col. Nazario Serrano, 20, Irvine, Texas; died Saturday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to the Combat Service Support Battalion 1, Combat Service Support Group 1, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Navy Lt. Cmdr. Keith E. Taylor, 47, Irvine, Calif.; died Jan. 29, in a rocket attack on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad; assigned to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command, Iraq Detachment.

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class Mickey E. Zann, 27, Brooklyn Park, Minn.; died Friday in Mosul, Iraq, from injuries incurred in a collision between two armored vehicles; assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.





Arab TV station Al-Jazeera aired a video Monday that insurgents claim is the wreckage of a British military plane that crashed in Iraq, killing 10. The rebels say the C-130 Hercules was shot down north of Baghdad over the weekend, but the authenticity of the video could not be confirmed.

## Blair: Unclear why plane crashed

BY MICHAEL McDONOUGH  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday it was still unclear what caused a British military transport plane to crash north of Baghdad, killing all 10 servicemen on board in Britain's biggest single loss of life in the Iraq conflict.

Insurgents claim to have shot down the C-130 Hercules aircraft north of Baghdad on Sunday, and Al-Jazeera has aired a videotape from guerrillas showing flaming wreckage of a plane.

"Let me again express my sympathy and condolences to the families of those that have died,"

Blair told the ITV television station. "We don't yet know the exact cause of the crash. We hope we will be able to give people more details of that in due course."

The nine Royal Air Force personnel and one soldier on board the aircraft died, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defense said Tuesday. They had previously been reported missing and presumed dead.

The deaths brought the British military's death toll from the Iraq war to 86. The highest previous death toll from a single incident was eight British servicemen, killed in a helicopter crash

in which four Americans also died in March 2003.

Britain's Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, said a senior investigator was on his way to Iraq, where staff on the ground were already sifting through the wreckage of the C-130.

The Hercules was on an administrative flight between Baghdad and a U.S. air base at Balad when it went down 19 miles northwest of Baghdad, the Ministry of Defense has said. The crash came on election day, which insurgents had pledged to disrupt.

It was not immediately possible to determine if the wreckage shown was that of the crashed Hercules.

## Witness at trial of British soldiers accused of abuse admits confusion over suspect ID

The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A British soldier testifying in the court-martial of three colleagues accused of abusing Iraqi captives said Tuesday he was no longer sure he had seen one of the defendants threatening two detainees with a pole.

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Petrice originally told investigators that defendant Lance Cpl. Darren Larkin was wearing combat trousers as he threatened two detainees with a stick. On Tuesday, he acknowledged that pictures of the alleged abuse published in

newspapers show Larkin in boxer shorts.

Petrice had said earlier Tuesday that "I just recognized him [Larkin] straightaway" when he witnessed the scene. The soldier, he said, was holding a pole in a threatening way over one naked Iraqi and another who appeared to be undressing.

"It was of an aggressive nature," Petrice said. "I then realized the unattractive nature of what was happening."

But under questioning by the defense over the clothing issue, Petrice said he "began to doubt" his identification.

"I'm saying I may be mistaken because I'm quite conflicted with myself," he said.

Larkin and the other soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers were charged with abuse of Iraqis detained on suspicion of looting a warehouse holding humanitarian aid outside Basra in May 2003.

The trial revolves around photos taken by a soldier who was arrested in England after bringing the film to be developed.

Larkin, 30, pleaded guilty to one count of battery after prosecutors alleged he was the man shown in a photo standing with both feet on a tied-up Iraqi lying on the ground.

## U.S. officials warn Persian Gulf states could face attack

### Qatar, Kuwait may be terror targets

BY WARREN P. STROBEL  
AND JOHN WALCOTT  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Concern is mounting among U.S. intelligence officials and diplomats that al-Qaida-related groups may be preparing terrorist attacks on Persian Gulf bases that support American military forces operating in Iraq.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said unknown individuals have been conducting surveillance of U.S. military and diplomatic facilities in Qatar, the Persian Gulf state that houses the forward headquarters of the U.S. Central Command, which oversees U.S. combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In nearby Kuwait, meanwhile, government security forces engaged in deadly clashes Monday with armed militants, the second such incident in two days and the fourth in January. On Friday, the State Department issued a travel advisory for U.S. citizens in Kuwait, warning that terrorists might try to attack housing complexes used by Westerners.

Increased security at official U.S. government installations might force would-be terrorists to seek "softer" targets, such as public transportation, residential areas and restaurants, the advisory said.

No similar travel advisory has been issued for Qatar, but military facilities have been on high alert there for some time. U.S. officials wouldn't discuss the concerns on the record, citing the sensitivity of the issue. They

said intelligence suggesting a possible attack, while thought credible, doesn't point to a specific time or place for an attack, they said.

Intelligence on terrorist threats isn't always followed by an attack. In November, for example, the State Department warned of a possible attack on hotels in Qatar's capital, Doha, but later rescinded the warning.

Suspicious activity around U.S. facilities in Qatar has been going on for more than a year. One Pentagon official said no increased activity had been detected, though others said recent intelligence had raised the level of alarm.

From the viewpoint of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and its various affiliates, an attack on U.S. Persian Gulf military bases could destabilize Gulf states that cooperate with the United States and under-

score many Arabs' opposition to the U.S. military presence in the region.

It would also likely drive up world oil prices.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, al-Qaida has increasingly turned its attention to undermining the government of oil-rich Saudi Arabia, which it views as an apostate regime.

In Kuwait, the Kuwaiti monarchy, a close U.S. ally, has proposed special security measures to deal with an upsurge in Islamic extremism. According to news reports from the region, security forces on Monday raided an apartment in a suburb of Kuwait City, arresting six militants, one of whom died in custody, and killing four others.

## Woman who lost father in Iraq loses husband in war, too

BY BOBBY ROSS JR.  
The Associated Press

Less than a year ago, Tabitha Bonillas's father gave her his for his country in Iraq. Last week, her husband gave his, too.

Army Capt. Orlando A. Bonilla, 27, of Kilken, Texas, was killed Friday in a helicopter accident in Baghdad. Her father, Army Sgt. 1st Class Henry A. Bacon, 45, died last February in a vehicle accident.

Through tears and long pauses, Orlando Bonilla's wife — and Henry Bacon's daugh-

ter — tried to "do justice," as she put it, to the two most important men in her life.

"I stand behind my daddy and my husband, and I stand behind the job they had to do, and that's my take on it," she said. "I just support them, regardless of who sent them over there and why they sent them over there, no matter whether it's right or wrong reasons."

Orlando Bonilla was attending the University of Texas at Austin and waiting to get his Army commission when he took a part-time job at a Target store in July 1999.

That's where he met his future wife, a fellow Target employee whose father was stationed at Fort Hood.

Bonilla's "easygoing, sweet, gentlemanly" personality attracted Tabitha Bacon to him, she said. He told her he had been in high school that he wanted to be an Army pilot. "He liked flying," she said.

Tabitha Bonilla's mechanic father died when he was hit by one vehicle while making repairs on another in Duisel, Iraq. Bacon, who joined the Army in 1982, had delayed his retirement to serve in the war on terrorism, relatives said.

Bacon's death delayed his son-in-law's deployment to Iraq, but only for a few months.

The Bonillas, who married at Fort Hood, would have celebrated their third wedding anniversary March 16. He would have turned 28 on March 18. But instead of parties, his widow must now plan a funeral.

"I wanted to show him that I could be strong," said Tabitha Bonilla, 23, explaining why she did not pressure her husband to stay home. "I told him that my biggest regret would be that if he left too and wouldn't come back."



SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

From left, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Benavidez, Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Fore and Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Bailey stand in their boarding team gear aboard the USS The Sullivans on Tuesday at Naval Station Rota, Spain.

## Winning hearts and minds one 'happy meal' at a time

Navy using different tactics to build relations with fishermen

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

**NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain** — Sailors aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans call them "happy meals."

The neatly packed sacks of goodies include rice, fruit, water and pamphlets on how to call if someone ever needs help.

During the ship's deployment to the Middle East, Navy teams in small rubber boats approached small vessels and gave them out to fishermen. The handouts might not seem like much, but the Navy is hoping the goodwill gesture will help make friends among the local fishermen and score valuable intelligence on the bad guys.

"It's building ties and building a relationship that we hope will eventually grow to the point that we can start getting actionable intelligence toward stopping international terrorist organizations," said Cmdr. Wade Wilkenson, The Sullivans' commanding officer.

Dishing out the food and goodies is a relatively new method of trying to dig up more information on smugglers, pirates and terror-

ists who sail the high seas, but the idea is not new to the military.

Soldiers and Marines have used similar psychological tactics on land to win the hearts and minds of residents in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq by delivering humanitarian aid to small villages. For the Navy, the challenge is trying to meet face to face with fishermen and sailors aboard ships in international waters.

The Sullivans along with the USS Underwood and the USS Hue City made a port stop in Rota on their way back to the United States after a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Middle East.

The Sullivans, which is based in Mayport, Fla., handed out "happy meals" to 49 boats during its deployment. The official term for giving out the goodies is "intel stops."

At first, some of the Middle Eastern fishermen were a little apprehensive about the group of American sailors approaching their ship. But after awhile, the fishermen warmed up to the team with the help of a Pakistani translator. In addition to giving out

food and water, some packages included matches and U.S. Navy ball caps. A pamphlet in multiple languages explained how to contact them if they saw anything suspicious or knew of any possible terrorist activity. The crew added rice to the sacks after finding out that it was the staple meal for the fishermen.

Some fishermen tried to return the favor, offering the day's catch to the team.

While the gifts didn't immediately generate any tips on terrorists, the hope is that a better rapport with fishermen and merchant ship captains in the region will eventually turn up a treasure trove of intelligence that could thwart an attack before it happens.

"I don't think there were any SEAL teams that took out any terrorists because of our friendly boardings," said Lt. j.g. Jonathan Linder, one of the ship's boarding team officers. "But we have a better idea what's going on, what the normal things are, so it'll stick out when we see something at the time."

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: [schonauer@mail.ustrs.esd.mil](mailto:schonauer@mail.ustrs.esd.mil)

## Sikorsky to get order from DOD for 84 helicopters

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Connecticut-based Sikorsky Aircraft, which lost the prestigious contract to build the new presidential helicopter fleet on Friday, is expected to get funding from the federal government to build at least 84 aircraft, congressional sources said.

The funding, likely to exceed \$2 billion for Navy and Army helicopters, is expected to be included in the Pentagon budget that will be released next week and in the Iraq war supplemental spending plan, the sources said. The \$80 billion war supplemental would include five Black Hawks.

The 84 helicopters would greatly exceed the 59 Sikorsky aircraft in this year's budget and may blunt some of the financial effect of the Navy's announcement Friday giving the Marine One contract to Lockheed Martin and its international partners.

Rocco Calo, vice president of Teamster's Local 1150, said, "That's going to keep us busy." Calo, at a news conference with Congress members Monday, said there will be no jobs lost at Sikorsky as a result of the presidential helicopter decision.

"We are not going to suffer a single payroll because of this decision," Calo said.

But Connecticut members of Congress were still not ready Monday to give up on the Marine One decision.

Rep. DeLauro, D-Conn., said she will be introducing legislation Tuesday that would prevent the Navy from buying an aircraft that is less than 100 percent American made.

That bill will face powerful opposition from New York lawmakers who backed Lockheed's bid — which will put a new manufacturing plant up to 750 new jobs in Oswego, N.Y. — making it unlikely that Congress would void a

Navy contract that has already been signed.

"I will vigorously oppose any efforts in Congress to overturn the Navy's decision to choose the US101 as the next presidential helicopter," Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., said in a statement Monday, adding that Lockheed's aircraft represents "the best that New York and America has to offer."

Sen. Charles Schumer added that Lockheed Martin had the best product, and "the difference is whether the jobs will be in New

York and Texas or will they be in Connecticut."

Sens. Christopher J. Dodd and Joe Lieberman, both D-Conn., were at Sikorsky with DeLauro on Monday. They said they will seek a meeting with the secretary of the Navy and demand an explanation.

The Navy on Monday reiterated its defense of the contract award, saying that both proposals were fairly considered and that Lockheed bid met the criteria and was the best overall value.

Dodd acknowledged that DeLauro's legislation faces an uphill fight in Congress.

Sikorsky is now planning more of its future hopes on the Army and Navy's plans to replace hundreds of helicopters in the coming years.

According to several sources, the Navy budget is expected to include funding for at least 40 of the utility helicopters as part of an ongoing program to replace aging Sikorsky-made Sea Hawks.

Under its five-year budget plan, the Navy plans to buy 50 in 2007, 60 in 2008, and 70 in 2009.

In addition, the Army is expected to fund about 10 Black Hawks in the budget coming out Monday, as part of its program to replace 1,213 helicopters over the next decade or more.

Army and Navy officials would not comment on budget numbers. But Army spokesman Bob Hunt said the service is planning to buy new Black Hawks — making it aircraft that are about 20 years old.



**Sikorsky Aircraft workers rally at the Teamsters Local 1150 hall in Stamford, Conn., on Monday, where they spoke to U.S. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., and U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn.**

## Deadline set for Calif. voters to apply for special election absentee ballot

Stars and Stripes

**WASHINGTON** — California voters have until Feb. 22 to apply for an absentee ballot for the special election to fill the Congressional seat of the late Rep. Robert Matsui.

Matsui, 63, died of a rare bone

marrow cancer in January. He served his Sacramento-area district for 26 years, and was lauded by his colleagues in Washington at memorial services last month.

The special election will take place March 8. Twelve candidates, including Matsui's widow, Doris, are on the ballot.

Information on eligibility to vote in the election and obtaining an absentee ballot can be found through the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov), or through the California Secretary of State's office, [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov).

Along with submitting an absentee

ballot in the mail, California voters may fax a copy of their ballot into state elections officials under certain circumstances, including waiving the right to a secret ballot.

If one candidate wins more than 50 percent of the vote in the March special election, that per-

son will assume the Congressional seat. But if no one receives more than 50 percent, the top Republican and Democrat vote-getters will square off in a general election May 3.

Voters will have until April 26 to apply for absentee ballots for that second special election.

# Mecha: Is this the soldier of the future?

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

Cars slow down as they pass his parent's place. Kids come running, too, when they see Carlos Owens, Renaissance reservist. Soldier. Ironworker. Inventor. Dreamer. Dr. Frankenstein.

"Hey mister," the kids ask. "Are you building a giant robot?"

The private first class uses some hydraulics training he learned in the Army as a heavy equipment mechanic, but mostly loads of imagination and gumption, to build an 18-foot "mecha" in the snows of his Wasilla, Alaska, back yard.

For those unversed in the world of Japanese anime, a mecha is a hulking robot with a human pilot inside. Owens soon plans to fire up his machine for walk testing. The 27-year-old believes his machine could fight wars, fight fires, or — at the very least — take on old Volkswagens for cheering crowds. "Pound for pound, it's the most powerful exoskeleton on the planet," Owens says.

OK, laugh it up. But even the Pentagon wants robotic soldiers.

The concept isn't entirely new: In the late '60s, General Electric designed a machine that would allow sailors on aircraft carriers to lift 1,500 pounds for loading bombs. Only one of machine's arms worked, though, and it never saw sea duty.

Still today, from Wasilla to Washington, D.C., the dream is alive.

"If you're piloting one of these things, it'll emulate your movements on an 18-foot scale," Owens says of his creation. "If you move



Carlos Owens, Jr., a 27-year-old iron worker who is on the Army's inactive reserves, is building an 18-foot robot that he believes could be used on the battlefield. The robot, which has cost \$15,000 to build so far, is capable of spitting fire and shooting spikes. He hopes to debut the machine at the Alaska Raceway this summer.



PHOTOS BY JIM LAVRAKAS/Anchorage Daily News

your arm, it'll move its arm. If you raise your leg, it'll raise its leg. If you stomp a car, it'll stomp a car."

Owens runs a Web site, [www.neogentronix.com](http://www.neogentronix.com), and promises he'll post a video of his baby taking its first steps. Owens started with scraps in 2003 and now has a full exoskeleton. He plans to debut it at a speedway this spring. But beyond car crushing — already the bread-and-butter of a 40-footer called Robosaurus — Owens sees real work for his machine. The prototype will fire flames and spikes, but one designed for the military could fire nastier munitions for urban combat.

"No one's going to want to play Rambo with a machine like this that is three times taller than they are," Owens says.

He also sees mechas as super smokejumpers.

"If you send a squad of these guys, you could just romp right through a forest fire, and put that sucker out from the inside. You could put on a hydraulic chainsaw attachment."

## An Army of ... what?

Small town dreamers and scientists agree that the future soldier runs on batteries.

The two sides are not, however, always pals.

Owens' project has cost \$15,000 so far. He heckles the government's Exoskeletons for Human Augmentation Project, which has spent \$50 million on a venture with the University of California, Berkeley. That plan of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency aims to give soldiers leg braces to march longer distances carrying heavy loads. It's called the Berkeley Lower Extremities Exoskeleton, or BLEEX.

Owens, who is in the inactive reserves, claims BLEEX costs too much money for too little muscle. "If I had \$50 million, I could do something a lot better than some overrated servo legs," he says.

The folks at DARPA know of Owens, too.

"We've gotten a few calls about it," says John Main, the scientist in charge of exoskeletons there. He forwarded questions to DARPA public affairs.

Spokeswoman Jan Walker says the battlefield in Alaska and the military's project are "like apples and oranges." The DARPA legs are supposed to function more with finesse and fluidity rather than crush and burn.

"It's not something that's big. It's something that's soldier-sized," Walker says. "By the time to engage, they wouldn't be tired from the approach march."

According to Program Executive Office Soldier, the Fort Belvoir, Va., command developing and fielding gear for the Army, today's push is due to a draft proposal on warriors of the future. A section of that Ground Soldier Capabilities Development Document calls for troops to "improve physical work performance" from an initial 50 percent to an eventual 200 percent.

"The Army is on a path to accelerate the development of the state-of-the-art exoskeleton technology to meet the soldier's requirements and provide this capability to the field," says Ross Guckert, director of systems integration at PEO Soldier, in an e-mail.

After a quick look at Owens' site, Guckert says he doesn't believe the mecha is ready to enlist. "I must say that his machine is



Photo courtesy of the University of California, Berkeley

The U.S. government, working with the University of California, Berkeley, is developing an exoskeleton designed to improve soldiers' ability to march with large loads on their backs.

years behind current exoskeleton developments, particularly in the areas of human-machine interface to control software, reduced power supply, safety, stability, agility, size and weight," Guckert writes. "There would be no use for his current system on the battlefield."

But Owens swears his frugal Frankenstein will see victory. "It's just a prototype, he says, and future models could protect the wearer from chemical and biological attack. Mechas would move smoothly, like people. Some could operate underwater. Some could go into space.

Owens believes his mecha is to "Robotech" what mobile phones are to "Star Trek."

"A lot of science fiction dictates what's coming out next. Everybody said, hey, where's my communicator? Now we have cell phones. "I believe science fiction ties directly into reality through creativity."

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: [sanderson@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:sanderson@mail.estripes.osd.mil)

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## IN THE WORLD

# Nepalese king halts democracy, suspends rights

BY BINAY GURUBACHARYA  
The Associated Press

KATMANDU, Nepal — King Gyanendra dismissed Nepal's government on Tuesday and declared a state of emergency, cutting off the Himalayan nation from the rest of the world as telephone and Internet lines were severed.

The king's move was the second time in three years that the king has taken control of the country's

King Gyanendra

tiny South Asian constitutional monarchy, a throwback to the era of absolute power enjoyed by Nepal's monarchs before King Birendra, Gyanendra's elder brother, introduced democracy in 1990.

King Gyanendra denied his takeover was a coup, although soldiers surrounded the houses of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba and other government leaders.

The king also suspended several provisions of the constitution, including the freedoms of press, speech and expression, the free-

dom to assemble peacefully, the right to privacy, and the right against preventive detention, according to a statement from the Narayanhiti Palace.

"We will oppose this step," Deuba, who was not allowed to leave his home, told reporters. "The move directly violates the constitution and is against democracy."

Nepali Congress, the country's largest party, said the king had "pushed the country toward further complications" and called for a joint protest.

The king also was criticized by India, Nepal's southern neighbor and close ally.

"These developments constitute a serious setback to the cause of democracy in Nepal and cannot but be a cause of grave concern to India," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement. "The safety and welfare of the political leaders must be ensured and political parties must be allowed to exercise all the rights enjoyed by them under the constitution."

India said the king's move had violated the Nepalese constitution, which enshrines a multiparty democracy alongside a constitutional monarchy.

Britain also expressed concerns about the political developments in Nepal.

"This action will increase the

**Argi walks by as Nepalese soldiers patrol a street near the King's palace complex Tuesday in Katmandu. King Gyanendra dismissed Nepal's government on Tuesday and declared a state of emergency, taking control of the Himalayan kingdom for the second time in three years.**

risk of instability in Nepal, undermining the institutions of democracy and constitutional monarchy in the country. We call for the immediate restitution of multiparty democracy, and appeal for calm and restraint on all sides during this difficult time, said Foreign Office Minister Douglas Alexander.

Armored military vehicles with mounted machine guns were patrolling the streets of Katmandu, Nepal's capital, and phone lines in the city had been cut. Many flights into Katmandu were canceled amid the uncertainty or turned back by Nepalese authorities, although the airport remained open.

Long lines quickly formed at grocery stores and gas stations, as worried residents stocked up on supplies.

"We are so confused. We don't know what is going on or what will happen," said Narayan Thapa, a government worker in Katmandu. "I am worried I can't reach my family on the phone."

In an announcement on state-run television, the king accused the government of failing to conduct parliamentary elections and being unable to restore peace in the country, which is beset by rebel violence.

"A new Cabinet will be formed under my leadership," he said, accusing political parties of plunging the country into crisis.

"This will restore peace and effective democracy in this country within the next three years."

Later, state-run television reported that a state of emergency had been declared.

## Europeans not on board with plan for air marshals

BY TOBY STERLING  
The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — After Sept. 11, 2001, Washington demanded that its European allies agree to place armed air marshals on selected U.S.-bound flights. But that demand later was softened to a request, and now it appears the idea may never get off the ground.

The latest blow came last week as KLM Royal Dutch Airlines — one of the few European airlines to agree to carry air marshals — ended a test program and said it is questionable whether it will be resumed in the face of opposition from pilots.

KLM spokesman Hugo Baas said the company would discuss the issue this month but it is not seen as a necessity. He said the fact that many other airlines ignored the U.S. request also had raised doubts about whether KLM should continue the program.

"Do you want to be the teacher's pet?" Baas said.

Although the U.S. federal program has been expanded from fewer than 50 marshals in 2001 to several thousand today, in Europe the idea has quietly disappeared as airlines and governments adopt other security measures, such as locking cockpit doors.

Air marshals are "something which I haven't seen on our radar," said David Henderson of the Association of European Airlines, which represents 31 of Europe's biggest carriers. "Our members don't bring the issue up with us."

Among European countries, Austria, Switzerland and Germany agreed to the marshals and Lithuania is one major airline known to use them.

The Nordic countries, Portugal and Spain refused the U.S. request outright. Air marshals were not an issue in Italy, where Italian pilots started locking themselves into the cockpit after Sept. 11.

The British and French governments agreed to the request in principle. But a spokesman for the British Airline Pilots Association said talks on allowing marshals still are ongoing and the airlines have not yet flown.

British marshals have been trained and "can be used if needed," said Department of Transportation spokesman David Stewart. "The capabilities are there."

An Air France spokesman said unarmed secret service agents flew on flights several times early last year, but the program was scrapped when cockpit doors with locks were installed.

On Dec. 29, 2003, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that European airlines would be required to place armed law enforcement officers on flights to the United States "where necessary."

## Police chief says terror threat still high in Britain

The Associated Press

LONDON — The threat of a terrorist attack on London remains "extremely high," and police have thwarted terror plots in the last few years, says the city's police chief last Tuesday.

On his first day as head of the Metropolitan Police, Ian Blair said: "The terrorist threat in London remains extremely high."

Blair's predecessor, John Stevens, said repeatedly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States that a terrorist strike in Britain was inevitable.

Blair said it was not inevitable such an attack would succeed.

"This phrase about whether attacks are inevitable is not the point," Blair said. "We know it is inevitable people will try because we have arrested them and changed them. It is a palpable threat, it is real."

British police have arrested more than 700 people under anti-terrorist legislation since the Sept. 11 attacks. Only 17 have been convicted of terrorist offenses, although several trials are under way or pending.

## Gates visits EU headquarters

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates was to visit the headquarters of the European Union on Tuesday, at a time when there still is a disagreement with the EU's head office over how the software giant should adapt to the landmark ruling against it.

Microsoft Corp. said it will respect last March's ruling while its appeal is pending before EU courts, but the EU head office still has problems with exactly how the company's immediate compliance will work.

As part of the EU ruling, Microsoft said it soon will send computer manufacturers a version of its Windows platform without Media Player, under an interim EU ruling in December.

But the European Commission said Monday it was still negotiating with the company over how the stripped-down version would be presented to consumers.

## Egypt bombing suspect killed

CAIRO, Egypt — Security forces shot dead Tuesday an Islamic militant involved in the Sinai bombings that killed 34 people last October, the Interior Ministry said.

The shootout occurred in the desert outside Ras el-Sadr, a Red Sea town 40 kilometers south of Suez, when police confronted a group of suspects that they had been pursuing since Monday evening, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry did not confirm earlier re-

ports that said two people were killed — a policeman as well as a militant. One police officer was wounded, the ministry said.

The militants were linked to the group that carried out the Oct. 7 bombings in the Sinai resorts of Taba and Ras Shitan, killing 34 people. One of the bombs destroyed a wing of the Taba Hilton Hotel.

Interior Minister Habib el-Adly said last month that police were closing in on two key suspects in those bombings.

## U.N. accuses Sudan of abuses

UNITED NATIONS — Sudan's government and the Janjaweed militia are not guilty of genocide but did commit mass killings, torture, rape and other atrocities in the Darfur region that merit trials in the International Criminal Court, a U.N.-appointed panel said in a new report.

Sudan's government dismissed those accusations Tuesday, saying the U.N. charges were unproven and biased.

The panel's report, released Monday, sets up a possible showdown with Washington, which opposes the international court and has demanded that perpetrators of the violence be tried elsewhere, calling for the creation of a special tribunal for Darfur.

Another Security Council member, France, said Tuesday it supports trying suspects before the international court, the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, which began operating in 2003 in The Hague, Netherlands.

From The Associated Press





# North Korea declares war on long hair

BY SANG-HUN CHOE  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's communist government is waging war against men with long hair, calling them unhygienic anti-socialist fools, and even leader Kim Jong Il has trimmed his famous bouffant locks.

The hair campaign comes as North Korea's dictatorship struggles to tighten its control over information, monitor its population and dictate cultural tastes.

It is directing men to wear their hair "socialist style," deriding shabbily coiffed men as "blind followers of bourgeois lifestyle."

North Korea's state-run Central TV even identifies violators by name and address, exposing them to jeers from other citizens.

"We cannot help questioning the cultural taste of this comrade, who is incapable of feeling ashamed of his hair style," the station said Monday, showing a Mr. Ko Gwang Hyun, whose unkempt hair covered his ears.

"Can we expect a man with this disheveled mind-set to perform his duty well?" the announcer asked.

The government, which demands unquestioning allegiance and controls all publications and broadcasts, is growing wary of outside influence seeping in.

Foreign broadcasts penetrate the country through smuggled transistor radios. As North Korea's economic woes persist, more North Koreans are traveling to China to seek food — and are exposed to the rapidly spreading capitalist culture there. CDs containing South Korean songs and TV dramas — popular in most of Asia — are reportedly smuggled into the North.

The hair campaign, which began in October and is dubbed "Let's trim our hair according to socialist lifestyle," requires that hair be kept no longer than two inches. But the state trendsetters allowed an exception: old men can grow hair up to 2.8 inches to hide balding.

The campaign claims that long hair hampers brain activity by taking oxygen away from nerves in the head. It doesn't explain why women are still allowed to grow long hair.

Kim Jong Il for many years wore a bouffant hairstyle — reportedly to boost his height — but recently set an example by trimming it.

# Antarctic loses 3 miles of ice

BY RAY LILLEY  
The Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — A massive ice shelf in Antarctica's Ross Sea has retreated by three miles, the operator of an eco-tourism ship reported Tuesday, but global warming is unlikely to blame.

Tour operator Rodney Russ said the retreating ice shelf had made it possible for his ship — Spirit of Enderby — to travel farther into an area known as the Bay of Whales than had ever been recorded before.

"It's one of the best ice [free] years we've ever had down there," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from his ship. "The ice shelf has retreated even further and we managed to get another three miles further south."

In 11 years of guiding expeditions into Antarctic waters, Russ said this was the first time his ship had entered the Bay of Whales, named by Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen at the beginning of last century.

University of Canterbury Antarctic glaciologist Wendy Lawson said any retreat of the ice at the Bay of Whales was "probably a local effect, possibly caused by sea currents."

Lawson, head of the university's geography department, said recent research



A crew from the Spirit of Enderby uses a small boat Friday to land on the ice in Antarctica's Bay of Whales. A retreating ice shelf made it possible for the ship to reach this farther south. HERITAGE EXPEDITIONS AP

shows the Ross Ice Shelf "is either stable or even advancing slightly," which made the retreating pattern in the bay area even more likely to be a localized phenomenon rather than evidence of global warming.

The 48-passenger cruise vessel is on a monthlong eco-tourism expedition to the Ross Sea and sub-Antarctic islands of New Zealand and Australia.

Russ said the group had spent several hours on the ice shelf after landing in the Bay of Whales, where the edge of the ice

shelf is quite low. In other parts of the region, ice cliffs tower hundreds of feet above the sea, he said.

The group had also visited the huts of famous Antarctic explorers, including Amundsen and Briton Robert Falcon Scott, during their time in the Ross Sea area.

"Very few people have been there. There are a lot of people interested in history on board," Russ said.

Spirit of Enderby is due in the southern New Zealand port of Bluff on Feb. 8.

# Man's death halves Afghan Jewish population

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The remains of the second-to-last Jew in Afghanistan were flown Tuesday to Uzbekistan, the first stop on a journey to Israel where the body will be buried, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Ishaq Levin, caretaker of Afghanistan's only functioning synagogue, died at about age 80 in the Afghan capital on Jan. 18, apparently of natural causes, ending a bitter feud with the only other survivor of a once-thriving Jewish community.

A Red Cross aircraft took Levin's body to the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, where it

was to be handed over to Israeli Embassy officials, said Jean-Nicolas Marti, deputy head of the Red Cross delegation in Afghanistan.

Marti said bureaucracy and infrequent flights between Tashkent and Tel Aviv had held up the transfer. Afghanistan and Israel have no diplomatic relations.

Levin's death halved Kabul's tiny Jewish community, leaving just 45-year-old Zebulon Simentov, who was Levin's neighbor in the downtown synagogue.

Afghanistan's Jewish community numbered as many as 40,000 in the late 19th century, after Persian Jews fled forced conversion in neighboring Iran. But by the mid-20th century, only about 5,000 re-

mained, and most emigrated after Israel's creation in 1948.

According to Simentov, the last eight or nine families left after the 1979 Soviet invasion. But Levin — the synagogue's *shamash*, or caretaker — stayed on, even through the repressive rule of the Taliban.

Simentov and Levin had feuded for years, blaming each other for arrests and beatings at the hands of the Taliban as well as the loss of the synagogue's only Torah.

Police have said the scroll was in the hands of a former Taliban minister now believed to be incarcerated in the American military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

# While honoring Bob Marley, Ethiopians still wary of Rastafarians

The Associated Press



Italian Rastafarians, Gianni Ginelli, center, and Nicola Pagano, right, speak with their Ethiopian counterpart, Mohamed, on Monday in front of a Rastafarian souvenir shop in Shashemene, Ethiopia. The Italian Rastafarians came to Ethiopia for festivities that began Tuesday in honor of the Jamaican reggae legend Bob Marley.

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Throughout his life, Bob Marley looked to Ethiopia as the spiritual home of his Rastafarian faith.

But as Ethiopia welcomes hundreds of thousands of revelers for a month of festivities beginning Tuesday in honor of the Jamaican reggae legend, many here view Rastafarians — some of whom settled in Ethiopia because they could worship the nation's last emperor — with deep suspicion.

At best, the tiny Rastafarian community is tolerated as an oddity in the deeply traditional and overwhelmingly Orthodox Christian country on the Horn of Africa. At worst, they are accused of spreading drugs and crime — claims they dismiss as springing from prejudice.

Organizers of this month's celebrations hope music will melt away tensions.

The highlight is Ethiopia's largest-ever concert on Marley's birthday — Feb. 6 — in the capital, Addis Ababa.

It is the first time the annual commemoration has been held outside Jamaica. Ethiopian officials estimate 500,000 people will attend the festivities. After the concert in Addis, celebrations will move to Shashemene, where the Rastafarians have built their community.

Rastafarians worshipped Ethiopia's last emperor — Haile Selassie, who died in 1975 — as their living god, a belief based on a 1920 prophecy by Jamaican civil rights leader Marcus Garvey that a black man would be crowned king in Africa.

Selassie in turn granted Rastafarians land in 1963 at Shashemene, where several hundred continue to live. But successive governments have refused to give Rastafarians citizenship in their adopted country.

On Friday, Rasta Ethiopia said she was determined to honor her husband's wish for burial in Ethiopia, but did not say when the body might be moved from Jamaica.

## IN THE STATES

## Gay dad seeks OK to live with partner

BY TOM STUCKEY

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A court ruling forcing a gay father's partner to move out of the house where the father is raising his 12-year-old son "has been so negative for the child in so many ways," the father's lawyer said Monday.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Ulf Hedberg's lawyer, filed a brief with the Court of Special Appeals on Monday, asking the court to dissolve a Virginia Court order prohibiting Blaise Delahoussaye from living in the house with Ulf Hedberg and his son.

"The son just misses the partner very much. He had been living with them 5 1/2 years from about four to 9%," it's very upsetting to the child," Minter said.

In an e-mail, Hedberg, who is deaf and whose native language is Swedish, wrote that before Dela-

houssaye had to move, "We were happy and thought we would be happy like everyone who has family. Our happy life was smashed in the result of the Virginia's court ruling."

According to court papers, after Hedberg and the boy's mother, Annika Dethrow, separated in 1996, Delahoussaye moved in with the father and son. Three years later, the two men bought a house together and Delahoussaye played an active role in raising the boy.

But in 2000, when the mother moved to Florida, she sought custody of the boy. A judge in Alexandria, Va., awarded joint legal custody to the parents, but gave Hedberg primary physical custody with the condition that Delahoussaye move out of the house.

The two men then moved to Montgomery County and rented separate apartments. Hedberg filed suit in Montgomery County Circuit Court to dissolve the Virginia court order, but the suit was dismissed.

## Crematory operator sentenced to 12 years

The Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, Ga. — They came flying to hear a former crematory operator explain why he left their loved ones' bodies to rot in piles across his property.

They didn't get an answer. Nearly two dozen relatives of people

Whose remains were dumped on the grounds of the Tri-State Crematory in rural North Carolina at Monday's sentencing hearing for



Marsh

Ray Brent Marsh.

Marsh, as he did when he pleaded guilty in November, chose not to explain himself.

"I can't give you the answers that you want, but I can apologize," Marsh told the families, just before Judge James Bodford sentenced him to 12 years in prison.

After all the relatives had the opportunity to speak, Marsh stood up, looked at the family members and apologized.

Marsh asked the families for "forgiveness for my sins."

Agreeing with the terms of a plea deal, Bodford sentenced Marsh to the prison term followed by a lengthy probation and a \$20,000 fine. He will get credit for the nearly eight months already served in jail.

## Conn. execution delayed

HARTFORD, Conn. — A court-issued death warrant for serial killer Michael Ross expired late Monday, after a week of nearly nonstop court activity and Ross' temporary reversal of his decision to give up his appeals and accept his death sentence.

State officials plan to seek a new death warrant, but lawyers say it could now be months before legal disputes are settled and the execution is allowed.

Ross, 45, confessed to eight murders in eastern Connecticut and New York in the early 1980s. He is on death row for the killings of four young women and girls.

## Annan taps Clinton

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Kofi Annan has selected former U.S. President Bill

Clinton to be the U.N. point man for tsunami reconstruction and ensure that the world doesn't forget the needs of the countries devastated by the Dec. 26 disaster, a well-informed U.N. diplomat said Tuesday.

## Search engine debuts

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. is formally launching its new Internet search engine, several months after it debuted in test form.

On Tuesday, Microsoft's own search engine will permanently replace the Yahoo search technology that has been used on Microsoft's MSN Web site. But Yahoo's technology will still be used for the "sponsored" listings that companies pay for, and that appear separately alongside the main search results.

From wire reports



President George H.W. Bush delivers his State of the Union address to Congress on Capitol Hill on Jan. 29, 1991. In wartime, presidents have filled their State of the Union addresses with words to rally Americans in the fight for peace. It surely will be no different for President Bush on Wednesday night. Seated behind the president are Vice President Dan Quayle, left, and Speaker of the House Tom Foley.

## Bush's State of the Union could play as rally for war

BY DONNA CASSATA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In wartime, presidents have filled their State of the Union addresses with words to rally the nation.

It surely will be no different for President Bush on Wednesday night. Although the commander in chief never mentioned the word Iraq in his inaugural address Jan. 20, he is certain to focus on the conflict in his State of the Union speech just three days after Iraqis held elections.

More than 1,400 Americans have died since the war began nearly two years ago, and Bush is poised to ask Congress for \$80 billion more to help pay for a conflict that is costing \$1 billion a week.

Amid unease about the war, Bush faces the challenge of assuaging Americans' concerns about the rising toll in lives and dollars.

State of the Union speeches offer an important stage for presidents. They usually sketch out the evils of the enemy and trumpet Americans' willingness to sacrifice — all part of a concerted effort to keep support strong.

On Jan. 6, 1942, less than a month after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke of the "spirit of the American people," their deep determination and their solemn task.

"The militarists of Berlin and Tokyo started this war. But the massed, angered forces of common humanity will finish it," he said.

Then, acknowledging the question of nearly every American, Roosevelt said, "Many people ask, 'When will this war end?' There is only one answer to that. It will end just as we make it end, by our combined efforts, our combined strength, our combined determination to fight through and work through until the end — the end of militarism in Germany and Italy and Japan. Most certainly we shall not settle for less."

Ken Hechler, a former political science professor who edited Roosevelt's public papers and addresses, said Bush's challenge is similar to Roosevelt's — to shore up the nation.

"A good deal of that speech was meant to stiffen the morale against the negative reaction," said Hechler, who also served as a congressman from West Virginia (1959-77).

In 1952, Americans wondered if there was an end in sight in Korea. President Truman's support had plummeted after he fired Gen. Douglas MacArthur in 1951 for publicly criticizing the commander in chief's strategy to wage a limited war rather than attack China.

In his State of the Union speech, Truman appealed for unity, touched on his domestic agenda and told the nation, "The only thing that can defeat us is our own state of mind. We can lose if we falter." Alonzo Hamby, an Ohio University professor who has written extensively on Truman and Roosevelt, said Truman's challenge was tougher than Bush's, if only because casualties were higher in Korea.

"He had an active military draft at that time. It was a much more difficult situation," Hamby said.

"Bush can talk about victory, and we can hope maybe he's right."

In the middle of a massive air war in the Persian Gulf to push Iraqi forces out of Kuwait, President George H.W. Bush told the nation on Jan. 29, 1991, "All of us yearn for a world where we will never have to fight again."

Bush's father contrasted the offenses of Saddam Hussein — "his ruthless, systematic rape of a peaceful neighbor" — with the

multilateral effort to stop him. "The world can — seize this opportunity to fulfill the long-held promise of a new world order, where brutality will go unrewarded and aggression will meet collective resistance," he said.

Kurt Ritter, a professor of political rhetoric at Texas A&M University, said presidents rally support by contrasting "the savageries of the enemy" with "America and America's effort and civilizing force."

In the address Wednesday, Ritter said, Bush reminded Americans of the beatitudes and imminent attacks in Iraq, and focus on the push for democracy.

Bush will also want to make sure that his domestic agenda does not get lost in the worries about dangers abroad.





## OPINION

## Generous to a fault: Hype-free aid preferred

**S**andra Bullock wants us to know she gave \$1 million to the Red Cross for tsunami disaster relief, which is nice of her. Indeed, when I Google "Sandra Bullock tsunami," 64,300 results appear.

**Karen Heller**



and other organizations aiding the relief effort."

As if the pictures, stories and statistics weren't enough.

As I write this, Jay Leno and Harley-Davidson are auctioning off a star-attended road King for disaster relief — it says so on their Web sites — which seems inappropriate in so many ways.

Kobe Bryant was one of seven NBA players who pledged \$1,000 for every point scored one recent week, though critics thought it might be an attempt at career rehab.

Each day brings fresh pronouncements from actors, musicians, even lowly newspaper scribes of all the good work they're

doing in the name of the catastrophe.

Once again, we are venturing into the murky, though increasingly traveled, waters of In Style-magazine philanthropy. If someone better known is doing it, using a hair product or donating to a just cause, then mere mortals might do the same.

Some of us were raised with the belief that giving was a responsibility attended by humility, not a press release. To call attention to ourselves, even when doing noble deeds, is not beneficence but pride. Making ourselves more important than the cause is hubris. Yet, there's a prevailing me-tooism, with everyone racing to raise funds, and publicity, when only the former is needed.

We are inundated with appeals from schools, religious institutions and work-places to give as a group, upping the ante of how much can be delivered and then promoted, when many people were raised to believe that charity begins at home and that it's the individual who makes a difference, not a cheerleading effort.

Bad events always bring out the worst in opportunists, as easily as they bring out the best in the magnanimous. Publicists still opportunistically shrink promoting the latest tsunami insights and self-help book to any desperate hack willing to care. Celebrity newscasters have to share their stories. Why? Why? Son, I have no doubt, chartered jets of supermodels, Formula One racers and Oscar winners will be traveling to Asia, because every story needs a recognizable and beautiful face to pro-



mot on television, in tabs and the glossies.

Look, whatever the motivation, in the end good things are happening: a fund-raising record in individual and government donations, appropriate for one of the largest natural disasters in modern memory.

Traditionally, most charitable giving is too insular and self-reflective, with the largest gifts going to religious institutions (40 percent) or schools (32 percent), invari-

ably the donor's own. Until now, a paltry 2.2 percent has gone annually to international organizations, according to the American Association of Fundraising Counsel.

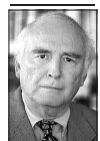
All I ask is that we operate with the modesty and grace charity requires. The gift is in the giving. The stories should be entirely devoted to those who matter, the recipients, the witnesses, the survivors of worse than we'll ever know.

Karen Heller is a Philadelphia Inquirer columnist.

## Parties should unite to increase aid to war widows

**I**f there is any common ground for agreement left between the warring political parties in Congress it should be in protecting the welfare of the loved ones of American soldiers who die in combat. At the moment, the nation's gratitude for those who have given their lives is a paltry \$12,420 — in many cases hardly enough to pay for funeral expenses.

**Dan Thomasson**



A proposal would increase that 1908-established gratuity to \$100,000, hardly an excessive amount when one considers what this government has paid survivors of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack. That compensation averages well over \$1 million for civilian families, with relatives of policemen and firemen killed in the tragedy receiving more than twice that. The 9/11 victim compensation fund was established to protect the commercial airline industry from suits arising from the attack. It was not a great idea, given the precedent it sets.

Since it was established during President Theodore Roosevelt's administration in 1908 as a bonus for Civil War veterans, the gratuity, originally a few hundred dollars, has been increased several times — but not by much. It went to \$1,800 to \$3,000 (depending on rank) in 1956. During the Gulf War it was raised to \$6,000 with half of that taxable. In 2003, the amount was increased to \$12,000 and it was made tax free and tied to military pay raises. On Jan. 1, the 3.5 percent pay increase for all military personnel boosted it by \$420.

Currently, the Army provides both an opportunity for its troops to buy at a low rate a \$250,000 term life insurance policy and a death benefit of \$6,900. Plus there is a limit-

ed monthly stipend for wives.

There have been complaints that paperwork has made the insurance payments slow and some wives and children have been financially as well as emotionally devastated. Another plan circulating in Congress would have the Army pay the premium on insurance policy. Some in the military have reduced the amount of the policy as a way of saving money or, in some cases, refused it altogether.

The proposal also would increase the insurance to \$300,000 and the estimates are that the cost of raising both the death gratuity and the insurance ceiling would cost about \$420 million in the first year.

What may seem substantial, it is little enough to pay to assure those willing to sacrifice their lives that their survivors have extended security.

Few issues have more emotional appeal and practical application. If the nation is going to continue to rely on an all-volunteer military supplemented by reserve and National Guard units, then few other proposals

could do as much to keep recruitments high as convincing potential soldiers in a time of war that their loved ones will be taken care of should anything happen to them.

Aside from the practical aspect, it is simply the right thing, the moral thing to do. Past generations have willingly sacrificed their lives for the national interest in the kind of protections they deserved. Few have made an issue of it. The time has come to provide the guardians of our welfare and freedom with more than just a posthumous medal for bravery. In fact, the insurance policy should be extended to those who are permanently maimed in combat. As a former secretary of Veterans Affairs noted recently, those who care for soldiers who have lost a limb or face long-term disability frequently have more serious emotional and financial drains than the families of those who have died. But extending the insurance to cover injuries probably is some time off.

There are also several private foundations established to provide compensation for the families of those who die in service. The In-

trepid Fund, supported by private donations, distributes several thousand dollars for children and wives and husbands of military dead.

But the government should bear most of the burden.

Republicans pushing the increase clearly believe it will help offset Democratic charges that the Bush administration has been negligent in its treatment of servicemen and women, failing to provide many of them, particularly reservists and Guardsmen, with adequate armor and other equipment. Whatever the reasons behind this push, it is an opportunity for both parties to put aside some of the animosity already so obvious in the first days of the new Congress and do something for the most deserving among us. Chances seem fairly good that few lawmakers will want to vote against it, especially those who have been so critical of Iraq and current Pentagon policies.

Dan Thomasson is former editor of Scripps Howard News Service.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

**Mallard's sage Super Bowl Prediction #3**



Fans will rest easier knowing that while the game may feature ex-felons, wife-beaters and drug addicts...



...fake moonings simply won't be tolerated...

# Starchy: High school students tepid about 1st Amendment

BY BEN FELLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The way many high school students see it, government censorship of newspapers may not be a bad thing, and flag burning is hardly protected free speech.

It turns out the First Amendment is a second-rate issue to many of those nearing their own adult independence, according to a study of high school attitudes released Monday.

The original amendment to the Constitution is the cornerstone of the way of life in the United States, promising citizens the freedoms of religion, speech, press and assembly.

When told of the exact text of the First Amendment, more than one in three high school students said it goes "too far" in the rights it guarantees.

Only half of the students said newspapers should be allowed to publish freely without government approval of stories.

"These results are not only disturbing, they are dangerous," said Hodding Carter III, president of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which sponsored the \$1 million study.

"Ignorance about the basics of this free society is a danger to our nation's future."

The students are even more restrictive in their views than their elders, the study says.

When asked whether people should be allowed to express unpopular views, 97 percent of teachers and 99 percent of school principals said yes. Only 83 percent of students did.

The results reflected indifference, with almost three in four students saying they took the First Amendment for granted or didn't know how they felt about it.

It also was clear that many students do not understand what is protected by the bedrock of the Bill of Rights.

Three in four students said flag burning is illegal. It's not.

About half the students said the

government can restrict any indecent material on the Internet. It can't.

"Schools don't do enough to teach the First Amendment. Students often don't know the rights it protects," Linda Pannoy, executive director of the Journalism Education Association, said in the report.

"This all comes at a time when there is decreasing passion for much of anything. And you have to be passionate about the First Amendment."

Federal and state officials, meanwhile, have bemoaned a lack of knowledge of U.S. civics and history among young people. Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., has even pushed through a mandate that schools must teach about the Constitution on Sept. 17, the date it was signed in 1787.

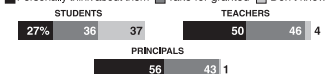
The survey, conducted by researchers at the University of Connecticut, is billed as the largest of its kind. More than 100,000 students, nearly 8,000 teachers and more than 500 administrators at 544 public and private high schools took part in early 2004.

## Students unsure of First Amendment

Nearly three-quarters of high school students say they don't know how they feel about the First Amendment or take it for granted, according to a recent survey.

The rights guaranteed by the First Amendment: Do you personally think about them or take them for granted?

Personally think about them ☐ Take for granted ☐ Don't know



## Do you agree with the following statements?

Students ☐ Teachers ☐ Principals ☐

People should be allowed to express unpopular opinions.



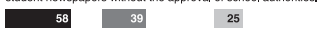
Newspapers should be allowed to publish freely without government approval of stories.



Musicians should be allowed to sing songs with lyrics which others may find offensive.



Students should be allowed to report controversial issues in their student newspapers without the approval of school authorities.



NOTE: Project surveyed more than 100,000 high school students, nearly 8,000 teachers and more than 500 administrators and principals at 544 schools across the country.

SOURCE: James L. Knight Foundation

AP

## Letterman gets Carson's last laughs

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It was Johnny Carson's last monologue and, predictably, it drew plenty of laughs.

David Letterman paid tribute to Carson, who died Jan. 23, by delivering a "Late Show" monologue Monday composed entirely of jokes the retired "Tonight" show host had quietly sent him in his final months.

Only after the monologue was through did Letterman tell the audience who had written the jokes.

There were some topics Carson couldn't resist in retirement: Paris Hilton and Donald Trump's hair.

Letterman set up one joke by noting scientists had been working on an airplane that flew 50 miles above the Earth. Only two man-made objects were visible at that distance, he said.

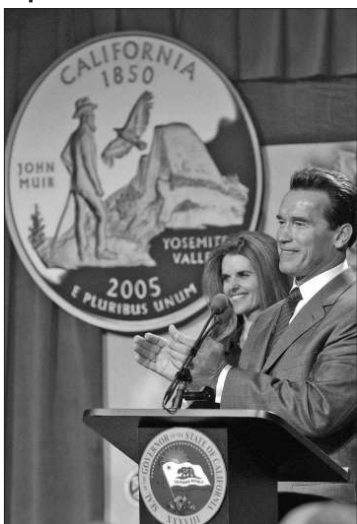
"One is the Great Wall of China," Letterman said, "and the other is Donald Trump's hair."

Letterman said Hilton's dog, Tinkerbell, was missing for a few days because it was "with the Taco Bell Chihuahua making a sex video."

One of Carson's former producers, Peter Lassally, told Letterman the one thing Carson missed after retiring in May 1992 was his nightly monologue. Carson would read the newspapers in the morning and write jokes, calling Lassally and delivering them by phone.

Only after much prodding did Carson agree to send some to Letterman. It was an indication that Carson considered Letterman his rightful heir, even though NBC chose Jay Leno as his "Tonight" show successor.

## A quarter with a view



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and his wife, Maria Shriver, applaud Garrett Burke, not shown, the designer of the California quarter, during ceremonies to launch the coin in Sacramento, Calif., on Monday. The California quarter is the first quarter released in 2005 and the 31st coin released in the U.S. Mint's 50 State Quarters Program. The quarter shows naturalist John Muir admiring Yosemite Valley's Half Dome while a California condor soars through the scene.

## Changes to cost 90,000 students their Pell funds

BY JENNIFER D. JORDAN

The Providence Journal

An estimated 90,000 college students nationwide will lose their federal Pell grants this fall and 1.3 million more will have their awards reduced due to changes the Bush administration has made to the program's eligibility requirements.

Eligibility is decided by a complex formula that takes into account family income, the number of other children enrolled in post-secondary education, and a host of other factors. An estimated 90 percent of families eligible for Pell grants earn less than \$35,000 a year.

Long considered the linchpin of financial aid for millions of needy students, Pell grants gave \$11.6 billion to 4.7 million undergraduate students in 2002-2003.

In the 1970s, Pell grants cov-

ered about 72 percent of the cost of attending a four-year public college and 35 percent of the cost of attending a private college, according to the American Council on Education.

By 2002-03, their impact had dwindled to 41 percent of the cost of a public-college education, and 16 percent for private colleges.

The Bush administration says the changes in estimating how much families can afford to contribute to college costs were long overdue, as the old formula was based on tax data more than a decade old.

Furthermore, officials note, the program is running a steep deficit — about \$4 billion — due to an unexpected surge in demand. Because the program functions like an entitlement, Pell grants are distributed to all eligible students, even if insufficient funds had been set aside.

## Stun-gun buyers to face background checks

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Taser International Inc. is hiring a company to conduct criminal background checks and verify the identity of private citizens trying to buy its stun guns.

Taser chose Atlanta-based ChoicePoint Asset Co. to provide online criminal background information and identity verification, said Rick Smith, Taser's co-founder and chief executive.

He said the checks confirm Taser's commitment to ensuring its devices, "designed for personal safety and citizen defense, are purchased for those very reasons."

Taser sells its stun guns primarily to law enforcement agencies but has more recently been marketing them to the public. The company has advertised on billboards and in newspapers in the Phoenix area.

The stun gun can temporarily paralyze someone with a 50,000-volt jolt of electricity.

From The Associated Press

# Consumer group calls for Celebrex ban

BY THERESA AGOVINO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. has acknowledged that a 1999 study found Alzheimer's patients taking the pain killer Celebrex were up to four times more likely to have cardiovascular risk factors than those taking a placebo.

The findings prompted a consumer group on Monday to renew its call for the government to ban Pfizer from marketing Celebrex, as well as the arthritis drug Bextra.

Public Citizen said Celebrex raised the

## Cites new information on heart problems

risk of serious cardiovascular events to 3.6 times that of a placebo. Results from the Alzheimer's study were posted on the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Web site last week. Risk factors included hypertension and diabetes.

Pfizer did not return calls for comment Monday. In a statement, however, it said the Celebrex patients' health problems meant definitive conclusions about cardiovascular risk cannot be drawn from the 1999 study.

Celebrex and Bextra are part of the family of drugs known as COX-2 inhibitors. Another drug in that group, Vioxx, was withdrawn last fall by its manufacturer, Merck & Co., because of heart problems.

Similar concerns have been expressed about Celebrex and Bextra, but they remain on the market.

Last December, a different study linked Celebrex to increased cardiovascular problems. Pfizer's president of worldwide development, Dr. Joseph Peczek, said the

results revealed in that study were not consistent with a "large body of data" that the company had collected.

The Food and Drug Administration has already suggested doctors consider alternatives to prescribing Celebrex, and plans to hold a hearing on the safety of COX-2 inhibitors.

In the 1999 study, two of the 285 patients taking Celebrex had heart attacks, compared with none of the 140 people in the placebo group. Six Celebrex patients had strokes, compared with three in the placebo group. The study found that Celebrex limited the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

# Viruses added to list of causes of cancer

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is adding viruses for the first time to its list of known or suspected causes of cancer, including hepatitis B and C and a third virus that causes sexually transmitted diseases.

Lead, X-rays and compounds in grilled meats also are joining the list.

It has been known that the hepatitis viruses can cause liver cancer and that some forms of the sexually transmitted human papillomavirus can cause cervical cancer.

But they were added to the list Monday only after officials decided to go beyond the report's historical focus on the occupational and environmental causes of cancer, said Dr. Christopher Portier, associate director of the National Toxicology Program, which prepared the latest update.

"We felt [the report] needed to be expanded to include other things in our general environment that can cause cancer," Portier said.

Dr. Michael Thun, who runs the American Cancer Society's ep-

idemiological program, said adding the viruses was important.

"These are human carcinogens and very important carcinogens," he said.

The list, which now identifies 246 known or suspected cancer-causing agents, is intended to give people who may or may not be exposed to any of the substances something to think about, he said.

Take X-rays, added to the "known" category. "This is simply to remind them that when they are making a decision about an X-ray to think about it and talk it over with your physician," Portier said.

But the American College of Radiology faulted the addition of X-rays and gamma rays, saying it was misleading and could prompt patients to avoid getting needed care.

"X-rays and gamma rays are not substances that the general public has access or exposure to and do not belong on a list of substances that pose a risk to people in the course of their normal, daily lives," Dr. James Borgstede, chairman of the radiology college's board of chancellors,

## Cancer causers

The government added 17 items — including viruses for the first time — to its growing list of carcinogens that is published every two years.

Total: 246 listed items

Known to be human carcinogens

58 189

Reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogens

Added Monday: 17 items

6 11

Including:

Hepatitis B and C viruses	Naphthalene
Human papillomaviruses	Lead
X-radiation and gamma-radiation	Cobalt Sulfate
	Nitrobenzene

SOURCE: Department of Health and Human Services AP

said in a statement.

New to the suspected category are substances that form when meats are cooked or grilled at high temperatures. Studies suggest an increased cancer risk when foods containing them are eaten.

# Test might detect Alzheimer's early

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A highly sensitive new test could lead to a different way to diagnose people with Alzheimer's disease, possibly helping find the illness in its early stages when there might be time for treatment.

While millions of people are thought to suffer from the memory-destroying illness, at the moment the only way to diagnose it definitively is by studying brain tissue during an autopsy.

It is important to have some way to diagnose the disease while the patient is still alive, especially during its early stages, so experimental treatments can be evaluated, and to catch it at a time when the disease might be treatable.

"If you can't diagnose it, you're not going to have a therapy for it," said Chad A. Mirkin of Northwestern University.

Many companies have experimental therapies, he said, "But those therapeutics aren't very good if you can't definitively diagnose and follow a disease," explained Mirkin, a lead researcher — along with William L. Klein — on a team that developed the new test, which can detect small amounts of proteins in spinal fluid.

The team's findings are reported in Tuesday's issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The new test, called a bio-barcode assay, is 100,000 times to 1 million times more sensitive than other available tests, Mirkin said in a telephone interview.

It was first used last year in testing for a marker for prostate cancer, and Mirkin said he invited other investigators to suggest subjects for further testing. Klein, also at Northwestern, had done research associating Alzheimer's with a protein in the brain called amyloid-beta-derived diffusible

ligand, or ADDL, Mirkin said.

So the research team set out to try and detect ADDL in spinal fluid.

They got samples of the spinal fluid of 30 people, 15 who had Alzheimer's disease and 15 who did not.

The researchers found at least some ADDL in all the patients, which Mirkin said is an indication that everyone may have a baseline level of the protein.

"What was really encouraging," he said, is that the concentration of ADDL increases as the disease gets worse, so the progression of the illness could be followed.

"Do we have a new diagnostic for Alzheimer's? That's a bit premature."

Chad A. Mirkin

a lead researcher on a team that developed the new test

Mirkin said. "That's a bit premature."

The method needs to be repeated and tested on more patients, he said. Also tests need to be done to see if high levels of ADDL occur in other memory-loss diseases.

But the researchers said in their paper, the work provides a "potential reliable detection method for diagnosing" Alzheimer's disease.

In addition, Mirkin said, the researchers are hoping to use the new test to search for proteins and other chemicals that can offer early diagnoses of other diseases, ranging from cancers to AIDS to mad cow disease.

ADDLs are small soluble proteins. To detect them the researchers used nanoscale particles that had antibodies specific to ADDL. Some particles were magnetic and some of gold with strings of DNA attached.

The antibodies bind to the ADDL, sandwiching the protein between the two particles. They are then removed from the solution magnetically and the hundreds to thousands of DNA strands attached to the gold particles serve as a barcode because they can be used to label the specific target with standard detection methods.

## Getting more from milk?



Cows at the Spruce Haven Farm in Union Springs, N.Y., will take part in a Cornell University study on whether boosting the level of a fatty acid in milk will prevent or limit cancer. The dairy industry hopes the study will prove out and give struggling dairy farmers a new market.

## Postcard mystery

**WV** MORGANTOWN — A postcard that Navy recruit Dennis Bosley sent to his mother has been returned — 37 years after he mailed it.

The yellowed postcard intended for Beatrice Bosley arrived in her son's Morgantown mailbox Saturday inside an envelope with no return address. "It's just weird," said Bosley, 55. "I'd like to find out who sent it to me and what happened to it. I have no idea. I've called all my family, and they have no idea."

Bosley mailed the postcard from boot camp in 1968. He later served on the destroyer USS Walden during the Vietnam War. Nine days after he returned to Morgantown, his mother died.

## Lunch looks suspicious

**IL** CHICAGO — The state attorney general's office is investigating whether two state utility regulators from the Illinois Commerce Commission broke any laws by attending a private lunch with executives from Peoples Energy.

The lunch occurred days after a utility watchdog group filed paperwork with the ICC demanding \$149 million in refunds for alleged overcharges to Chicago-area consumers.

## Ferry refunds \$150,000

**NY** ROCHESTER — After being threatened with a lawsuit, the operator of an idled high-speed ferry agreed to pay \$150,000 in refunds to more than 1,100 customers.

New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer initially obtained refunds for nearly 50 customers before hundreds more brought complaints against the Spirit of Ontario that ran daily across Lake Ontario from Rochester, N.Y., to Toronto, Canada.

Canadian American Transportation Systems, which ran the ferry for 11 weeks of sailing, will mail refunds.

## Super mom's Bowl plea

**FL** JACKSONVILLE — To get her sons into the Super Bowl, Barbara Langston is using some nifty advertising.

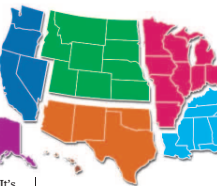
Langston placed a classified ad in the Florida Times-Union, which said, "2 kind, polite, well-mannered, teenage boys looking for Super Bowl tickets. Call their Mom."

"In their Mom and I think they are OK," said Langston, who knows she will pay a lot of money for the tickets, possibly as much as \$1,000 each for tickets with a face value of \$500. "They are the kind of kids mothers dream about having," she said.

It's not that either of her sons, ages 15 and 17, are huge fans of either team — the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles — but she says they live within walking distance of Allett Stadium, and she believes it's a chance of a lifetime.

## Plane sales going slow

**WI** MADISON — The state still owns two-thirds of its original fleet of airplanes more than



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

three years after lawmakers called for their sale, a newspaper reported. Department of Administration data gathered by The Post-Crescent in Appleton show that the state has sold 11 airplanes since fall 2002, recouping about \$1.2 million. However, it still owns 19 airplanes.

## Training flights continue

**CA** GORMAN — A top Defense Department official confirmed that new housing developments planned on Tejon Ranch in the mountains north of Los Angeles will not interfere with low-level training flights.

Navy Rear Adm. J.L. Betancourt says a military analysis has allayed his concerns that the new city would prevent Navy, Marine and Air Force combat pilots from training over the Tehachapi Mountains.

## Town may move from Vt.

**VT** WINHALL — Officials in another community want their town to secede from Vermont and join New Hampshire.

The Winhall Selectboard plans to ask voters about the secession idea on Town Meeting Day on March 1.

Town officials believe property taxes in Vermont are too high and the education funding system is flawed. A successful secession vote would send a message to the Legislature, said Selectboard Chairman Frank Pinto.

"It's to make a statement to Montpelier," he said. "We're not happy."

Killington voters approved a pro-



## Look out below

From top, George Karnazes, 7; Lizzie Kingsley, 8; and Bailey Perry, 8, sled down a frosty hill in Charlotte, N.C.

posal last year to merge with New Hampshire after repeated attempts to challenge the state's education law.

Like Killington, Winhall is considered a sending or "gold" town under Vermont's education funding law, and is responsible for sending more money to the state in taxes than other towns. About 90 percent of properties are vacation homes in the town that borders Stratton and its popular ski resort.

## Suburbs surpass city

**IA** DES MOINES — The combined population of 14 surrounding suburbs has outgrown Des Moines' population, the Des Moines Sunday Register reported. Unofficial estimates from city officials count 206,651 residents in the suburbs while Des Moines has 201,655 residents, the newspaper said.

## Low count blamed on rain

**TN** GATLINBURG — The Great Smoky Mountains National Park drew about 9.1 million visitors in 2004, down 2 percent, officials said.

Park Superintendent Dale Ditman said bad weather was a key factor, since the park got 11 inches more rain than normal. Several of the rainy months came during usually busy tourism times. The park is the most visited in the USA.

## Sin tax on adult shows

**MO** JEFFERSON CITY — A Show-Me State lawmaker wants a sin tax — on those who show too much.

First, Missouri banished sexy billboards and young strip dancers. Now, Republican Sen. Matt Bartle wants to force adult entertainment businesses out of the state by stripping them of their profits.

Legislation pending in the Senate would impose a 20 percent tax on revenues of all "sexually oriented businesses," charge a \$5 fee for each person entering their doors and prohibit them from staying open late at night.

"The goal of the bill is to make Missouri inhospitable for these businesses," said Bartle.

Adult entertainment executives question whether the legislation violates constitutional free-speech and expression rights and warn it could hurt the state's economy.

"It's a small business killer and it's a job killer," said Dick Snow, owner of Bazooka's Showgirls in Kansas City and a board member of the Missouri Association of Club Executives, the industry's trade group.

## Meat plant to redevelop

**NH** MANCHESTER — Officials signed papers to buy the former Jac Pac meat processing plant for \$3 million.

They're considering a variety of possible uses for the 17-acre site.

Any redevelopment of the riverfront property would complement a planned ballpark for the New Hampshire Fisher Cats minor league baseball team and a hotel and condominium complex, officials said.



## Dog tired

Josephine, a bulldog, sleeps after riding in the Krewe of Mutt Mardi Gras parade in Baton Rouge, La. The parade, which raises money for the Capital Area Animal Welfare Society, features dogs dressed in costumes and other finery.



## From Russia, with a big smile

Nikolai Roubtsov, left, dances with Anna Shchukina during a performance by the Moiseyev Dance Company, a Russian folkloric dance company, in Owensboro, Ky.



## Clowning around

Rep. Mark Homer, D-Texas, second left, serves dinner to his wife Jennifer Homer, left, and Dr. Richard Grossnickle and his wife, Lisa, right, during the annual Daan Wal Rotary Scholarship Benefit in Paris, Texas. Homer, along with other local personalities, took part in the theme of "Circus, Circus" for the celebrity-waiter dinner.





## Battle of the brass

Marching bands from Bethune-Cookman College, of Daytona Beach, Fla., left, and Florida A&M, of Tallahassee, Fla., perform in the grand finale of the Battle of the Bands during the 2005 Invitational Showcase at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.



## Taking her best shot

Toni Mattson makes a shot while playing in the women's semi-final eight ball game against Jessica Frideres, not shown, during the Midwest Casino Pool Tour tournament in Burlington, Iowa.



**Pretty toy** Hayden Mock, 6 months, of Copperas Cove, Texas, plays with an American flag as he waits with family members for his Uncle Mike Putnam of the 21st Cavalry Brigade to return from Iraq, during a welcome home ceremony for soldiers from 13th COSCOM and the First Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas.



## Run, Randy Moss!

Patty Sell, of Lincoln, Neb., races her duck, named Randy Moss after the Minnesota Vikings wide receiver, during the 25th annual Avoca Quack Off in Avoca, Neb. The event, in which ducks race across a frozen tennis court, benefits the local fire department.

## Videoaping police nixed

**DC** WASHINGTON — Mayor Anthony Williams wants a bill requiring police to videotape interrogations of serious crime suspects "reworked."

Williams vetoed the measure, because it could make unrecorded confessions inadmissible in court.

The D.C. Attorney General and U.S. Attorney's Office supported the mayor's decision.

## No-call violators beware

**WI** MADISON — Cell phone users could list their numbers on Wisconsin's no-call list for the first time under proposed legislation that also would increase the penalties for telemarketers who violate the law.

The proposal would increase the fines to up to \$10,000 per violation by telemarketers from the current level of \$100. Federal law prohibits telemarketing calls to cell phones, but a law doesn't include a similar provision.

## Juror's calls costly

**SC** COLUMBIA — A woman was found in contempt of court for telephoning news organizations while serving as a juror in a federal death penalty trial.

Cynthia Wilson was ordered to perform 120 hours of community service and repay \$2,500 of the \$5,600 she received for jury duty.

Wilson made the calls to bring attention to the case so women would be aware of dangerous situations, her attorney said.

## Work more for less?

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Eligibility rules for the state's pension system would be tightened under an overhaul of the system proposed by Gov. Don Carcieri.

Employees would have to work longer to qualify, and could be paid less under the plan.

Carcieri said his plan would save \$236 million during the next five years.

## Activist, 79, sentenced

**GA** COLUMBUS — A 79-year-old retiree was among five peace activists sentenced to three months of federal incarceration and fined \$500 for trespassing on Army property during a protest last November at the former School of the Americas.

Tom MacLean of Ashfield, Mass., will serve his sentence in a federal medical facility.

## No-tax plan considered

**IA** DES MOINES — Senate Republicans introduced a economic development plan that calls for eliminating the state income tax for everyone under the age of 30 while giving tax credits to businesses that create jobs.

Any job qualifying for the tax credit must pay at least \$10 an hour.

The elimination of the state income tax is aimed at keeping young workers in Iowa.

## Home's pricey makeover

**WA** SEATTLE — University of Washington President Mark Emmert and his family have moved into the president's mansion after a \$540,000 renovation of

the three-story house built in 1906. Regents tapped an endowment fund for \$370,000. The rest came from the university's building renewal fund.

The 35-room house also serves as a site for many university social functions.

## Schools miss standards

**CT** HARTFORD — About 25 percent of the state's school districts were warned that they aren't meeting the standards of the federal No Child Left Behind law.

The 43 school districts were spread across cities and suburbs and included the state's technical school system.

Fewer earned the designation than last year, when 99 districts were identified for poor performance.

## Tax man will collect

**LA** BATON ROUGE — The state Department of Revenue has mailed about 107,000 certified letters informing delinquent taxpayers that the state will seize any refunds they might expect from their federal income tax returns.

Louisiana is taking advantage of a recent amendment to federal law. It hopes to collect \$180.4 million in back taxes.

## Cigarette tax hike

**OH** COLUMBUS — Gov. Bob Taft is considering an increase in the tax on cigarettes to help balance the budget.

A leading business group said it's been told by the governor's staff that the tax could add 45 cents to the current tax of 55 cents per pack. Lawmakers approved an increase in the cigarette tax in 2000 to fill a budget deficit.

## Killer lion killed

**CA** SAN JOSE — A wildlife warden shot and maintained a lion to death in the back yard of a rural home after the animal killed two goats.

Department of Fish and Game officials said efforts to scare away the lion with bright lights and noise had failed. "Most of the time ... when faced with that kind of noise and visual disruption, most animals will leave," Fish and Game Lt. Don Kelly said. "This one held its ground."

## Famous hotel to close

**NY** NEW YORK — The Plaza Hotel, a meeting place for kings and queens, presidents and stars for nearly a century, will close by April 30, its owner says.

The 805-room hotel with the Central Park view will be transformed into a combination of upscale condominiums, stores and a much smaller hotel. It's expected to reopen late next year.

## Laptop trial a success

**AK** CONWAY — The University of Central Arkansas says a pilot program to provide laptop computers to new students has proven successful and it intends to supply 1,000 of the machines to students in the fall. In return, students will pay a fee of about \$250 per semester, and they have to give the computers back at the end of the school year.

## FACES



# A storybook rise to fame

Julie Roberts is determined to build on her fairy-tale career

BY TONY HICKS  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

**S**omeday they'll make a feel-good movie about Julie Roberts' life. It'll begin with a little girl belching at her first singing performance and end with a young woman in her 20s, looking nervous behind a desk outside her boss's office at a big record company, while inside, a producer pitches a demo tape to the label head.

The boss stops the tape and says he has met the unknown singer.

The producer tells him he already has — she's his personal assistant sitting outside.

That would be Roberts. The 25-year-old roots-country singer had a storybook year, after the May release of her chart-climbing, self-titled debut album.

Roberts spoke by phone from Nashville. So the story goes that you were working as an assistant for Luke Lewis [head of Universal Nashville, which owns Mercury Records] when he heard your demo and had no idea it was you. Is that really true?

(Giggling) Yes, it's completely true. I worked as an intern at Mercury for two years. They offered me a job when I graduated and I moved around the company, finally working for Luke as his assistant. I did my music at night. I would have never told him. I was scared he would fire me.

Why would he do that?

I knew what he did at work. I did his schedule. I thought it might be a conflict. I knew if I got fired, I'd have to be a waitress to pay my bills. I just wanted to stay in the industry. We played at nights, went into Laundromats, pizza parlors, lots of places. After I gave [producer Brent Rowan] a tape, he wanted to work with us. He asked, 'Hey Julie, can I take this [demo] to Luke?' My heart wanted him to, but I was scared. He told me he wouldn't tell him who it was.

Were you there when they met?

I was there when we went into the office, answering phones. My heart was beating so fast. I couldn't hear them talk, but Brent told me later Luke stopped him after the third song and said he wanted to meet me. [Brent] said I was sitting right outside the door. Luke said he didn't even know I sang.

You would seem to be a good candidate for a label to polish up and make into a big country-pop star. Yet your music is more rooted in country than other country cross-overs. Do you have to be deliberate about that?

No. This is what I love about it. He let me be who I am.

Nothing is forced on the record. They're not pushing me in any way. I feel very strong in my faith, and I feel like God is leading me. If that's toward a larger audience, great.

Take me. I want to see the world, and this is letting me.

Will success give you more freedom on the next record to write your own songs?

I'm in the studio right now, recording demos of songs I've written. We'll see if they're good enough for the record. When I buy a CD, I want to be able to love the whole thing. That's my goal for the next record.

What are you writing about?

It's got to be real to me. If I haven't lived it, I have to know someone who has.

So, as a country singer, does that mean every time something bad happens, you stop and say "Wait a second, this could be a song?"

I love sad country. But I love playing the happy stuff, too. I'll go into a writing session and say, "I'm in a good mood. Let's do something happy."

Do the Faith Hill comparisons help or hurt your career?

They're not talking about the music. They're talking about how I might look like a certain picture of her. I'll take that any day of the week, but there are other people I sound more like. I've heard Bonnie Raitt, who I love. I don't think I sound like anyone. I've got to be me.

You went to college, which isn't something one thinks of when considering the background of female country singers, such as Loretta Lynn, who worked her way up through poverty.

Singing country music was what I always wanted to do. But an education is something I'll always have. I went to college in South Carolina for two years, then I moved to Nashville to go to Belmont University and majored in music business.

Good thinking. There's a lot of musicians out there who got ripped off for not understanding the business.

Yeah. I learned a lot. And it gave me the opportunity to intern at Mercury.

You have a lot of great stories, including the one about your first public performance.

I was small and scared of everybody. My mama says she'd tell waitresses not to talk to me, or I'd start crying. And I did. But I liked to sing, and my mama and grandma convinced me to do this pageant. I think I was 5 or 6. They entered me in the talent part and didn't even think I'd sing. I got up there and burped.

That's perfect. Singing must have always been easy after that.

Yeah. I learned not to eat greasy food before you sing.

## Rodman settles restaurant woes

Former NBA star Dennis Rodman said he has resolved a dispute with an industry group that accused him of using copyrighted music without permission at his California restaurant.

Rodman has agreed to pay licensing fees back to 2002 and has signed a new agreement with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, his publicist, Shannon Barr, told the Los Angeles Times for Saturday's editions.

Rodman said he was unhappy about the ASCAP's rule that commercial establishments must pay fees for the use of any of its eight million copyrighted songs and compositions performed live, played on jukeboxes or piped in from radio stations.

"But hey, what can you do?" said Rodman, who has attracted publicity because of his brief marriage to Carmen Electra, wild partying and brushes with the law.

"We are under new management now, and I have taken every precaution that things like this do not happen again," he said in an e-mail to the Times.



Rodman

## Maroon 5 set to open Grammy Awards

Neo-soul rock band Maroon 5 will perform the opening musical number at next month's Grammy Awards.

"It's going to be awesome," lead singer Adam Levine said Thursday. "We're going to do 'This Love' unless they change it up on us and say, OK, 'Superfreak'."

Maroon 5 has earned two Grammy nominations for its debut album, "Songs About Jane," which has sold more than eight million copies since its June 2002 release and was the seventh best-selling album in 2004. The Grammys are televised in the States on Feb. 13.

## A tea party he couldn't refuse

Russian President Vladimir Putin praised the works of director Francis Ford Coppola as the two met for tea at the Kremlin before Coppola received a film award.

"In Russia your works are well known and highly valued," Putin told Coppola during a televised portion of the meeting Saturday. He said he was not just referring to "The Godfather" — which is extremely popular in Russia — but also to films "that so accurately tell of the horrors of war."

Coppola, in turn, lauded Putin's speech marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz by Soviet troops, during which Putin said he was ashamed of anti-Semitism's existence in Russia.



Francis Ford Coppola and Vladimir Putin

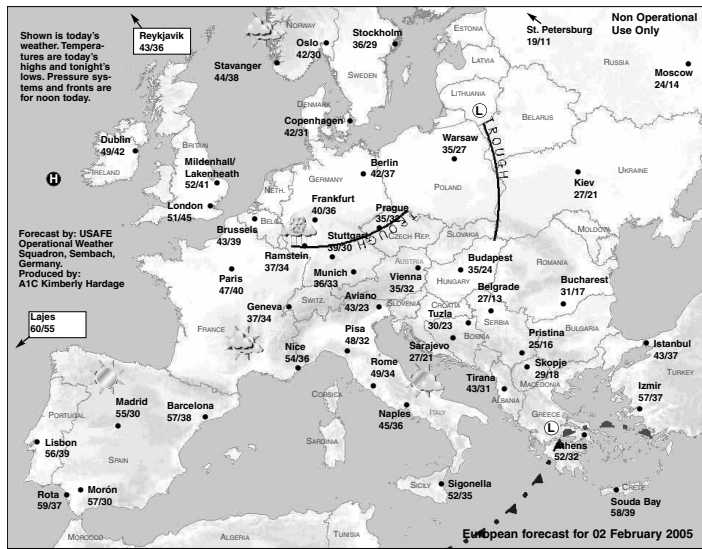
"Excellent speech," Coppola said. "But in person you look much younger than you did on TV."

Coppola was in Moscow to receive a Golden Eagle award from Russia's National Academy of Cinematic Arts and Sciences for his contribution to world cinematography.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press







## AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	86	66	Mogadishu	89	73
Dakar	78	65	Nairobi	84	60
Freetown	90	77	Rabat	62	38
Kisumu	92	79	Tripoli	60	45

## THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	46	41	Manila	85	74
Bahrain	76	57	Mexico City	70	44
Beijing	36	17	Montreal	27	10
Beirut	61	55	Riyadh	79	55
Bermuda	64	59	Rio de Jan	87	78
Caracas	87	71	Seoul	30	19
Helsinki	28	24	Sofia	28	17
Hong Kong	65	61	Sydney	87	63
Lisbon	58	43	Tokyo	49	38

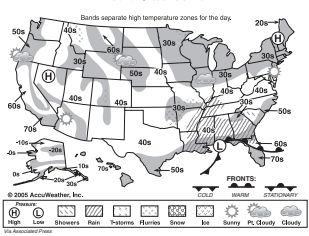
## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

## MIDEAST

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 30s.

**Britain, Ireland:** Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Thursday lows in the upper 30s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the 20s. Thursday lows in the mid teens.

**France:** Partly cloudy to mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s. Thursday lows in the upper 30s.

**Northern Germany:** Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 30s.

**Southern Germany:** Cloudy with rain and snowshowers. Highs in the upper 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

**Hungary:** Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the mid-30s. Thursday lows in the lower 20s.

**Northern Italy:** Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s. Thursday lows in the lower 30s.

**Southern Italy:** Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Thursday lows in the upper 30s.

**Kosovo:** Cloudy with snowshowers. Highs in the mid-30s. Thursday lows in the mid teens.

**Norway:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid-40s to mid-50s. Thursday lows in the mid-30s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Sunny. Highs in the mid to upper 50s. Thursday lows in the mid-40s.

**Turkey:** Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid-40 to mid-50s. Thursday lows in the mid-30s to mid-40s, lower 30s in the north.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:  
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>  
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:58AMx	6:57AMx
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:58AMx	7:59AMx
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:36PMx	5:37PMx
Sunset (Frankfurt)	5:22PMx	5:24PMx
		
Last qtr.x	First qtr.x	New moon

Last qtr.x      Full moon      First qtr.x      New moon

Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide  
every Saturday to find  
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES®  
Your Hometown Newspaper



# Horoscope

This Groundhog Day, the moon in its last quarter says, "Let's try something new before the season is over!" The innovative placement of Mercury nods in approval, and beautiful Venus joins the effort by stepping into Aquarius. Now, there are four luminaries in the altruistic, forward-thinking sign and hardly an excuse left to stay stuck in the past.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 2).** It's a year for making wonderful improvements! Home remodeling and renovation are featured. Romance, your body and even your wardrobe gets a boost in the late spring as your whole attitude lightens up. Investigate a career move through June. There's more money to be made by working in a different way or for a different company.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You're incredibly productive, making the most of your time and resources. Run your errands early, and get ahead in life! It's a fabulous time to start a diet, get a haircut and get your annual checkup. You're on a roll.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Your passion, or to a creative project or another person, is charging ahead at full throttle. Have fun, but try to avoid clouding your judgment with over-enthusiasm. This is a time to keep your feet planted on terra firma.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You've been so busy lately that you've hardly been at home! Plants and pets could use some TLC. While you're at it, why not get your place clean and presentable? An unexpected guest arrives shortly.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Make an effort to reach out to a sibling, cousin or close friend who may be going through a difficult time. Your nurturing spirit and killer chicken soup are sure to brighten anyone's day.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Lions love to make a dramatic entrance, but before you whip out that credit card to buy some stylin' new

clothes, know that a bit of thrift is in order. Avoid debt by dipping into someone else's wardrobe. Friends love to share.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Emotions run hot. Putting on your game face and kicking down the proverbial doors is one way to do the exact opposite — stay in, chill out, meditate. Why not give your mom a call?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Get a better understanding of your true strengths. Knowing where your power lies and how best to use it will help you make an important decision. Interview your own heart. Intuition is your best ally.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** While the scorpion is a solitary creature that treasures his privacy, romance can be found if you venture out of your comfort zone and seek new alliances. Joining a yoga or martial arts class satisfies your body and soul.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Your day-to-day work routine is probably more hectic than you'd like. Make the drudgery more fun by rewarding yourself at the end of each task. Use your famous creativity. And remember: This too shall pass.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** No sooner have you accomplished one thing than you're looking for a new mountain to climb! Think about going back to school to further your career. Another good bet is taking up a new sport.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Doctors and lawyers and accountants — oh my! You may need to consult a professional in a matter related to health or money. But don't worry — it's all good. Expert advice doesn't come cheap, but peace of mind is priceless.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** A long-term relationship or business partnership could do with a breath of fresh air. Sweep away your stale routine by suggesting a weekend retreat. The change of venue will revive your sense of play and whimsy.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



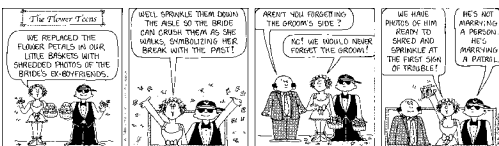
## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red Rover



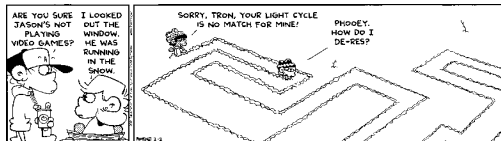
## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fox Trot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



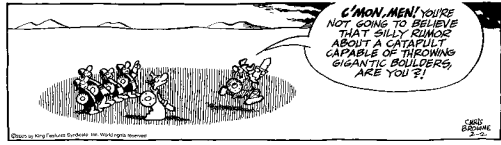
Blondie



Dilbert



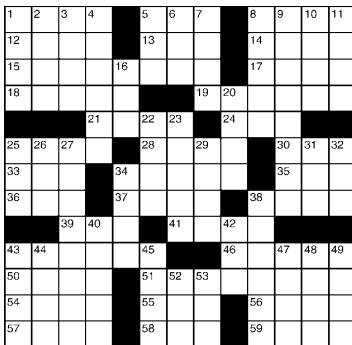
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### Across

- 1 Lapidary's supply
- 5 "Amazing Race" episode
- 8 Certain agt.
- 12 Not orig.
- 13 Ostrich's kin
- 14 Georgia city
- 15 Winner-to-be, maybe
- 17 Belligerent deity
- 18 "Survivor" group
- 19 Learned one
- 21 Doodles
- 24 Gibson or Brooks
- 25 Patrick Dennis' auntie
- 28 Peregrinate
- 30 Name-tags, for short
- 33 Enos' granny
- 34 Sound portion
- 35 Old French coin
- 36 Marry
- 37 Plumbum
- 38 Branch
- 39 Hole-making tool
- 41 Appear
- 43 Asian peninsula
- 46 Polynesian statuary
- 50 "B" — "boy"
- 51 Singer
- 54 Take five
- 55 Man-mouse link
- 56 Perry's creator

### Down

- 1 Talent
- 2 Eastern potentate
- 3 Skirt length
- 4 Not wobbly
- 5 Mainlander's souvenir
- 6 Type squares
- 7 Courage
- 8 Solemn
- 9 Ethics proponent
- 10 Congregational cry
- 11 Bird house, e.g.
- 16 Writer Buscaglia
- 20 Bullets
- 22 Verifiable
- 23 Pops
- 25 Kitten's call
- 26 Rd.
- 27 Olympics champ
- 29 Staffer
- 31 Female rabbit
- 32 Bottom line
- 34 Partner
- 38 "Candid Camera" reactions
- 40 Desires
- 42 JFK info
- 43 Sportscaster Albert
- 44 Bewildered
- 45 Acknowledge
- 47 Michael's dad
- 48 Wight, e.g.
- 49 Do a slow burn
- 52 Tramar contents
- 53 Urban transports

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-2 CRYPTOQUIP

ORF YIOS TRNHES SNLF  
N YELF! C OIJFOS ORF  
JFS TRFTLFU KEM NH

CMEHX UFKCTCFHTX  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: DURING THE TRIAL A MAN WORE WAY TOO MUCH COLOGNE. I YELLED "ODOR IN THE COURT!"  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals N

# Don't overlook prostate checks

**Dear Abby:** Because your column is like a huge community billboard, I thought I'd ask you to get this message out.

Please remind women that when they schedule themselves for a mammogram, they should schedule their husbands for a prostate exam and PSA test.

There's an abundance of advertising about breast exams, yearly checkups and women's health centers, but little is seen about the same thing for men. Prostate cancer is a serious problem if it's not detected before the symptoms show up, by then it's already spreading outside the prostate. You know that men put off medical visits more often than women, if you could get women involved in our health we might be around a lot longer.

As a prostate cancer survivor, I know from personal experience that early-stage prostate cancer has no symptoms and, because cancer-free for the past six

years, I am living proof that early prostate cancer can be cured.

—**Alive and Kickin'**  
in Knoxville, Tenn.

**Dear Alive and Kickin':** You have written an important letter. Many men, and women too, will appreciate your timely reminder.

My mother was once asked what she thought was the most important ingredient for a lasting marriage. Her response: "A husband who lasts."

Ladies, if you want your husband to last, improve the odds by making an appointment with his doctor every year.

One thing led to another, and soon I found myself behind the

**Dear Abby:** I am a 19-year-old young man who is writing you from a jail cell. None of my crimes were violent. They mainly consisted of theft and drugs. I've had a bad problem ever since my best friend overdosed in my hotel room. I did drugs before then, but not as much as afterward.

One thing led to another, and soon I found myself behind the

wheel of other people's cars and using other people's credit cards.

I have been locked up for three months now, and looking back, I can't believe the life I was living. Is there still a chance I can turn my life into a success when I'm released? And what do you recommend I do to stay sober and lead a happy life?

—**Tough Luck in Chattanooga**  
**Dear Tough Luck:** You can still achieve success, but it will be harder.

Some positive steps to take: Join a 12-step support group; people with problems who have emotional support accomplish more than they can on their own. Understand that you will have to forgo relationships with people who use drugs and steal. Complete your education.

It won't be easy, but if you do all of the above, you'll no longer be the same person you are today, and you will lead a happier life with fewer problems.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**LIPUP**

**YUNTI**

**ENGALT**

**SHEERY**

www.jumble.com

**Answer:**

Yesterday's

Jumbles: CHAIR TULLE FLURRY PURITY

Answer: What the surgeon turned into at the annual roast — A REAL CUT UP

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

# Checklist for alcoholic issues

**Dear Annie:** Any time the subject of alcohol comes up, you are quick to use the label "alcoholic" and suggest immediate help. I am a 41-year-old man, recently divorced. My wife claimed my drinking was a problem, but I disagree. I am a responsible drinker. I work hard, do volunteer work and have a peaceful, busy life. I never drink and drive, and have never been involved in a confrontation while drinking.

There are times when I drink every day for a week, and other times when I will not drink at all for a month or two.

I have no desire to change my behavior, because I am not aware of a single problem caused by my drinking. Would you call me an alcoholic and recommend that I seek treatment?

—**Curious in Tucson, Ariz.**  
**Dear Tucson:** Only you can decide if you have a problem, but we follow the following questionnaire from A.A. most helpful: 1. Have you ever decided to stop

drinking for a week or so, but only lasted for a couple of days? 2. Do you wish people would mind their own business about your drinking and stop telling you what to do? 3. Have you ever switched from one kind of drink to another in the hope that this would keep you from getting drunk? 4. Have you had to have an eye-opener upon awakening during the past year? 5. Do you envy people who can drink without getting into trouble? 6. Have you had problems connected with drinking during the past year? 7. Has your drinking caused trouble at home? 8. Do you ever try to get "extra" drinks at a party because you do not get enough? 9. Do you tell yourself you can stop drinking anytime you want to, even though you keep getting drunk when you don't mean to? 10. Have you missed days of work or school because of drinking? 11. Do you have "blackouts"? 12. Have you ever felt that your life would be better if you did not drink? If you answered YES four or more times,

you probably have an alcohol problem and might want to check out A.A. ([alcoholics-anonymous.org](http://alcoholics-anonymous.org)).

**Dear Annie:** My husband and I received a group e-mail inviting us to a birthday party for an acquaintance. The man's wife suggested that everyone bring a card with \$5-\$20 inside, so the birthday boy can buy a mountain bike he desperately wants. Of course, she said we shouldn't feel obligated.

We don't know this couple very well, and we already have plans that weekend and will miss the party. But isn't this tacky?

—**Anonymous**  
**Dear Anonymous:** Unless asked, it is inappropriate to tell people what they should give as a gift, and extraordinarily tacky to tell them how much to spend. Good thing you had other plans.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



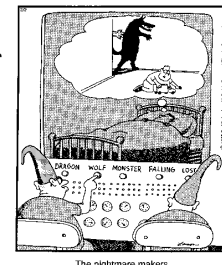
**"You are NOT Punxsutawney Phil and you didn't see your shadow! Now get dressed for school."**



## Domis the Menace



## The Far Side



## Non Sequitur



## SCOREBOARD

## AFN TV &amp; Radio

## Wednesday

**AFN Sports, 9 a.m.**—Pro basketball: Cleveland at Orlando (dtd).

**AFN Sports, 1 p.m.**—College basketball: Illinois at Miami (dtd).

**AFN Sports, 4 p.m.**—Wrestler X Games (dtd).

**AFN Sports, 7 p.m.**—Pro basketball: Phoenix at Memphis (dtd).

## Thursday

**AFN Sports, 1 a.m.**—College basketball: Cincinnati at Louisville.

**AFN Sports, 3 a.m.**—Pro basketball: Phoenix at Minnesota.

**AFN Sports, 6 a.m.**—Pro basketball: Houston at Philadelphia.

**AFN Sports, 9 a.m.**—College basketball: Arkansas at South Carolina (dtd).

**AFN Sports, 1 p.m.**—College basketball: Duke at Central European (dtd).

All times are Central European Time; did indicate broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Visit [www.afn.net](http://www.afn.net) for more information.

## Pro football

## NFL playoffs

**Wild-card games**  
**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
 N.Y. Jets 20, San Diego 17, OT

**Divisional playoffs**  
**Sunday, Jan. 9**  
 Indianapolis 49, Denver 17, OT  
 Minnesota 31, Green Bay 17

**Championship**  
**Sunday, Jan. 9**  
 Pittsburgh 20, N.Y. Giants 17  
 Atlanta 47, St. Louis 17

**College basketball**  
**Saturday, Jan. 8**  
 Philadelphia 70, New England 47

**Super Bowl**  
**Sunday, Feb. 6, 6:28 p.m.**  
 Philadelphia vs. New England

## College basketball

## AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 30, total points based on 25 votes. \* indicates first-place vote. # indicates record for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking.

**Record PTs**  
 1. Illinois (72) 17-2 1,707

2. North Carolina 17-1 1,707

3. Kentucky 16-2 1,697

4. Duke 16-1 1,514

5. North Carolina 16-2 1,497

6. Kentucky 16-2 1,497

7. Syracuse 16-2 1,318

8. Michigan State 16-1 1,263

9. Oklahoma State 16-1 1,263

10. Michigan State 16-1 916

11. Washington 17-1 812

12. Villanova 17-1 812

13. Oklahoma 16-3 813

14. Pittsburgh 17-1 775

15. Gonzaga 17-1 759

16. Cincinnati 17-1 759

17. Wisconsin 16-4 698

18. Texas 17-1 698

19. Utah 17-1 698

20. Connecticut 12-5 295

21. Georgia Tech 12-6 213

22. Wake Forest 12-6 213

23. Wake Forest 12-6 213

24. Wake Forest 12-6 213

25. Georgia Tech 12-6 213

26. Wake Forest 12-6 213

27. Wake Forest 12-6 213

28. Wake Forest 12-6 213

29. Wake Forest 12-6 213

30. Wake Forest 12-6 213

## AP Men's Top 25 schedule

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 No. 8 Boston College vs. West Virginia  
 No. 2 Maryland at Cincinnati

**Wednesday's games**  
 No. 4 Duke at No. 7 Wake Forest  
 No. 2 Louisville vs. No. 1 Cincinnati  
 No. 10 Oklahoma State vs. Kansas State

**Thursday's games**  
 No. 1 Wisconsin vs. Northwestern  
 No. 23 Georgia Tech vs. No. 34 Villanova at the Hartford Civic Center  
 No. 2 Georgia Tech vs. Florida State

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 No. 2 North Carolina vs. State  
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## AP Women's Top 25

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# NHL players insist owners' proposal is nothing to talk about

By IRA PODELL  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NHL and the players' association are now disputing whether they have anything to talk about.

The sides have had just limited contact by phone since Thursday, when the league presented more salary-cap concepts in an effort to reach a new collective bargaining agreement. But even that talking

stopped Monday, leaving even less optimism that the hockey season could be saved.

Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, expected to hear from the players' association on Monday, but that call never came.

"I'm somewhat surprised that I haven't heard from the players' association today," Daly told the Canadian Press on Monday. "We broke up on Thursday and both agreed to keep the lines of communication open."

"I'm expecting that at some point we'll hear back from them with respect to some of the concepts that we discussed on Thursday night."

Ted Saskin, the NHLPA's senior director, said Daly shouldn't have expected a response from the union regarding the new concepts because they still reflect the salary-cap position of the league.

That is an option the union vows it will never accept.

"Bill knows that the concepts they discussed with us on Thursday would not form the basis for an agreement, so he should not be surprised that he hasn't heard from us," Saskin said. "We were very clear on Thursday that we would not be negotiating over his proposed concepts."

The NHL is committed to achieving cost certainty that would provide a link between league revenues and player costs. The players' association has refused to accept that a solution to end the lockout that reached 138 days on Monday and has forced the cancellation of 747 of the 1,230 regular-season games and this year's All-Star Game.

The entire season might be the next thing to go.

After four meetings in three cities the past two weeks, the sides haven't been able to figure out when to get together again

or what to discuss.

"They raised issues on Thursday which indicated that they continued to have problems with the approach that we were presenting," Daly said. "It certainly gave me no cause of optimism. And the fact that we've gone another four days without hearing from them also doesn't give me cause for optimism."

The last meeting, on Thursday in New York, featured discussions between Daly,

New Jersey Devils President and General Manager Lou Lamerello, board of governors chairman Harley Hotchkiss and outside counsel Bob Bateman on the league side; and Saskin, Vancouver Canucks center Trevor Linden, and outside counsel John McCambridge, representing the players' association.

Linden, the NHLPA president, initiated the smaller

meeting, which was held as a way to help discussions without NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and union chief Bob Goodenow. The respective leaders were viewed as small circles to avoid a hindrance to a potential solution.

But the philosophical differences that existed between the league and the players on Sept. 16 — the first day of the lockout — are still there 4½ months later.

Both sides have acknowledged that time is running out on the season, even if that the NHL hasn't announced a drop-dead date.

"It's not about the calendar in terms of doing a deal," Daly said. "We're going to have to keep negotiating regardless of whether we can play hockey this season."

"Having said that, it is true that tomorrow is Feb. 1 and each hour that goes by makes it more unlikely that there's going to be hockey this season."

Daly didn't promise that the league would officially cancel the season, instead of letting it quietly run out, but he did expect that an announcement would come at an appropriate time if it is lost completely.

There are no signs that either side will soften its stance anytime soon, and certainly not in time to prevent the NHL from becoming the first major North American sports league to lose a full season to a labor dispute.

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — There might not be many Missouri fans who think the school made the right decision six years ago when it hired Quinn Snyder over Bill Self.

By all accounts, Self — then head coach at Tulsa — was the No. 2 choice when the Tigers chose Snyder, a former Duke point guard who'd never been in charge of a program.

After No. 3 Kansas' come-from-behind 73-61 victory over Missouri on Monday night, Snyder fell to 3-10 against the Jayhawks — and

0-7 against Self.

Snyder refused to discuss the growing criticism he is drawing from fans who are impatient with a team that has never finished higher than fifth in the Big 12 since he arrived.

"For me to be concerned about myself is not the answer," Snyder said. "Ultimately, I am accountable. But I have to focus on the team."

After quickly falling behind by 10 points against the heavily favored Jayhawks (17-1, 7-0 Big 12), the Tigers closed the first half on a 20-4 spree and seized a stunning 36-28 lead.

But Kansas rallied behind Aaron Miles' 14 points and 10 assists, all but one in the second half.

"We played so bad in the first half, it was miserable," said Self, who's 41-10 in less than two seasons at Kansas. "We made some serious mistakes and had about 10 turnovers. At halftime, it was like we just flipped a switch."

Two picture-perfect one-handed lobes by Miles set up easy buckets by Christian Moody and J.R. Giddens, keying a 7-1 run that seemed to deflate Missouri (10-11, 2-6) in the second half.

"I was sitting on the bench, but I was yelling my lungs out," said Wayne Simien, who had 22 points and eight rebounds. "That was huge."

Kansas shot just 36 percent in the first half but hit 70 percent in the first 15 minutes, 30 seconds of the second half while landing the reigning Tigers their seventh loss

in eight games.

"That was big for us," Miles said. "That was a big run for us because it got the crowd back involved. And it juiced us up."

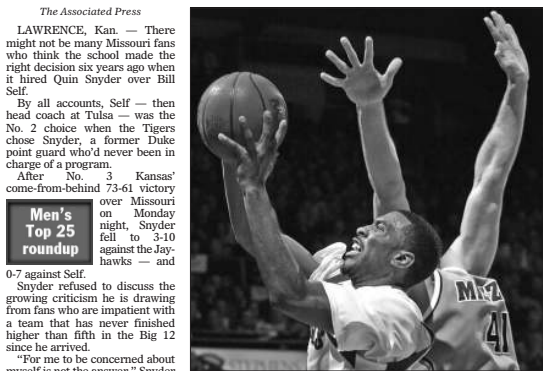
Giddens had 15 points and Keith Langford 11 for Kansas. Jason Conley had a season-high 20 points for Missouri, and Linas Kleiza had 11 before fouling out and then adding a technical foul for arguing.

"We are the type of team that has to play a certain way," Moody said. "And it is almost better playing when we are down. It's almost like we were scared, and I think we really stepped it up. I wasn't scared about how things would come out because I knew our seniors would come through for us."

An unexpected zone defense helped stop Missouri's momentum and allowed the Jayhawks to get their transition game going. The Jayhawks scored four points in the last 6:48 before halftime while Missouri went on a 20-4 run.

**No. 16 Pittsburgh 86, Providence 66:** At Pittsburgh, Chris

# Kansas' second-half rally keeps Missouri reeling



Kansas guard Keith Langford drives past Missouri's Linas Kleiza during the first half. The Jayhawks rallied in the second half to win 73-61.

Taft scored a career-high 25 points and Carl Krauser added 20 points. The Panthers' best-breaking offense while playing one of his best defensive games of the season.

Krauser had 19 points, nine assists and two steals and helped shut out Dwight Brewington for nearly 32 minutes to help the Panthers (15-3, 5-2 Big East) win their fifth in six games. Brewington finished with eight points.

Ryan Gomes scored 24, but the Friars (9-11, 0-7) lost their seventh in a row and 10th straight in the Big East dating to last season.

**No. 21 Utah 72, BYU 58:** At Provo, Utah, Andrew Bogut had 20 points and tied his career high with five blocks to lead Utah to its 13th straight win.

Bryant Markson and Tim Driesdom each scored 11 points and Marc Jackson had 10 points for Utah (18-3, 6-0 Mountain West), which shot 61.9 percent from the field in the second half.

Austin Ainge led BYU (7-14, 1-5) with 15 points.

# Air Force extends home streak to 24

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Antoine Hood scored 15 points and shot 4-for-4 from the three-point line Monday night to lead Air Force to a 64-48 victory over UNLV.

The win extended Air Force's home winning streak to 24 games, the second longest in the nation.

Air Force (14-7, 5-1 Mountain West Conference) won it in the first half with superior

three-point shooting and the nation's No. 1 scoring defense. Air Force made 10 of its first 15 field goal attempts, including eight of its first 12 three-point attempts to take a 42-24 lead into the break.

Nick Welch and Jacob Burtch added nine points each for the Falcons.

The Rebels' Odatary Blankson hit a jumper to pull UNLV to 18-15 with 11:39 left in the first half, but UNLV's next field goal didn't come until Joel Anthony hit a three-pointer at the buzzer.

Romel Beck led UNLV with 14 points, while Odatary Blankson added 11 points.

Air Force outbounded the Rebels 26-24, despite UNLV (9-9, 2-4) entering the game ranked second in the Mountain West Conference in offensive rebounds while the Falcons were seventh.

Air Force finished with a 10-7 advantage on the offensive glass. In the second half, the Falcons substituted liberally and 15 Air Force players saw action.

# Suns' Nash making a compelling case for league MVP

BY PERRY A. FARRELL

Detroit Free Press

Steve Nash must be the most valuable player in the NBA this season. The reversionist Phoenix Suns proved how important he is to the lineup when he missed three games with a thigh injury.

The Suns lost all three, including a 94-80 pounding at the Palace on Jan. 17. They lost six straight games in all during that stretch, but since Jan. 23 they have won five straight, including four on the road. Phoenix has scored at least 120 points in four of the victories.

Nash, who grew up in Victoria, British Columbia, returned to his home country Sunday, notching 19 points and 12 assists in three quarters in a 123-105 victory at Toronto.

"He did a couple of things today that I was amazed at," coach Mike D'Antoni said.

"I could sit here and talk about Steve all the time. We do a lot of good things, and Steve makes it all go."

The Suns have shot at least 50 percent in each game during the run, and Nash has 44 assists in the past three. Nash, the only NBA player averaging in double figures in points and assists and one of three guards shooting 50 percent from the field, was effective from the outset of the season.

The 6-foot-3, 191-pound point guard is averaging 15.7 points, 11 assists and 3.2 rebounds this season. He's shooting 51.8 percent from the field and 90.4 from the free-throw line. He has 25 double-doubles and tied with Sun to a 36-10 record, and has led the Suns to the top of the league entering Monday.

"We have a lot of terrific offense



Notes

sive players," Nash said. "We are very athletic and get into the open court. It is very difficult to contain us."

Nash was signed from Dallas last summer as a free agent. One big beneficiary has been three-year big man Amare Stoudemire, who scored 19 of his 27 points in the third quarter Sunday.

"That just was Nash," Stoudemire said. "He comes out and gives you a double-double every night, especially in assists. Steve came out aggressive on the offensive end against Toronto. He's pretty much been the leader, and we are used to it."

Phoenix scored 46 points in the third quarter at Toronto, the most ever allowed in a quarter by Toronto.

"We have breakout quarters like that from time to time, and that certainly was one to remember, maybe one of our best," Nash said.

There are other strong candidates for the MVP award: Tim Duncan of San Antonio, defending MVP Kevin Garnett of Minnesota, LeBron James of Cleveland, and Shaquille O'Neal and Dwyane Wade of Miami. But it's hard to pick against Nash.

When he's in the lineup running the show, the offense is devastating. When he's not, the Suns look like five lost puppies searching for their mother. He whizzes around and through defenders to find open looks for Stoudemire, Quentin Richardson, Shawn Marion and Joe Johnson.



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash, right, is the only player in the NBA averaging a double-double in points and assists this season.

**Bull run:** The Chicago Bulls started 0-9 and it appeared to be another 50-loss and no-playoff season for the team still caught in a time warp after the six championships Michael Jordan delivered in the 1990s.

But Scott Skiles kept working his young, talented players, and now they've put themselves in a position to make the playoffs for the first time since 1998, Jordan's last championship season.

"This is one amazing turnaround," Skiles said. "The 0-9 start was probably the scariest thing we'd had to endure this season."

"But even then, we never saw ourselves being an 0-9 team. At least it didn't feel that way. So that gave us a mental head start in turning things around. We al-

ways had confidence that we are a good team."

"But it has been very exciting and pleasing for me to watch us fight our way back to having a respectable record so far and to see our young guys improve. These are the things that make me want to coach. I want to help people get better. And we seem to be doing just that."

Skiles credits outstanding physical conditioning, improved defense and some quick learning by rookies Luol Deng, Chris Duhon, Ben Gordon and Andres Nocioni, who instantly made the regular rotation.

The Bulls are 22-20 and winners of 12 of their past 14.

Here's what coaches and players across the league have said about the Bulls' resurgence after the recharged Bulls:

"The Bulls' rookies not only have come of age quickly, they were the right kind of players and young men from the start." — Boston coach Doc Rivers.

"These are the kind of guys all NBA teams strive to build around. They all come from strong winning programs. They are young men of the best character. They listen to, respect and obey their coaches. And they are willing to work hard, play the game the right way, and they want to win." — Orlando guard Steve Francis.

Philadelphia guard Allen Iverson called the Bulls a "well-coached, playoff team with big-time confidence."

Portland point guard Damon Stoudemire said: "Chicago runs the best sets I've seen. They have great spacing on the floor and make it difficult to guard them."



Andres Nocioni (5) is among the group of rookies responsible for helping the Chicago Bulls rebound from an 0-9 start this season.

## No. 5 Boston College rides consistent play to best ranking

BY HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Jared Dudley's friends in California can't escape the buzz about Boston College. They hear it on sports shows and see it as cars crawl by on the bottom of their television screens.

"People are paying attention to you everywhere. When are you going to lose?" said Dudley, BC's second-leading scorer. "If we keep playing the way we're playing, we might not."

The publicity for a team stuck in a corner of the country where pro sports dominate may be as surprising as the Eagles' perfection.

At 18-0, they're one of two undefeated Division I teams and reached No. 5 in The Associated Press poll on Monday, their highest spot in school history.

And they're in truly elite company.

Top-ranked Illinois is 21-0 and followed by North Carolina, Kansas and Duke. Then comes BC, which hasn't made it out of the second round of the NCAA tournament since 1994 and was top 6-21 in 1998-99 after a dispute with the admissions office led to recruits going elsewhere.



Sophomore Jared Dudley, left, is averaging 16.3 points a game for the No. 5 Eagles (18-0), one of two undefeated Division I teams.

The roll call of powerhouse resumes in the next three spots with Kentucky, Wake Forest and 2003 champion Syracuse.

Coach Al Skinner said the ranking means little at this point of the season.

"The ranking is really just an acknowledgment of the success we have had to this point," said Skinner, in his eighth year with the Eagles. "And we appreciate that acknowledgment, and if we are there in March, then we have something to be excited about."

Do the Eagles belong in the same company as those seven big shots who have won eight of the last 17 national championships? "Who says we're not a big shot?" center Nate Doornkamp said.

The Eagles know exactly who they are — a deliberate team that doesn't blow out opponents, a level-headed group that knows the record that counts most is their 7-0 mark in the Big East. Take a team lightly and the first loss won't be far behind.

Their next two games are against mediocre Big East teams, at home against West Virginia on Tuesday night and at Seton Hall on Saturday night. BC won at West Virginia by 20 points on Jan. 16 and would tie the school record 19-game winning streak set in 1968-69 by winning Tuesday.

By the end of the night BC could be the only unbeaten team

because Illinois plays at No. 12 Michigan State.

"Big East games are always tough, no matter who you play," said Craig Smith, who came from the Los Angeles area and leads the Eagles in scoring and rebounding. "You can't ever let up in this league. We have to bring our 'A' game, because now we have a target on our back."

Maintaining a perfect record hasn't been easy. BC won one game in overtime, another in double overtime. It scored the last seven points to beat Villanova 67-66 on Jan. 19 then edged Providence 78-75 last Wednesday.

"It's just our style of play," Doornkamp said. "We go possession by possession. All our possessions are long. We wear out other teams."

The Eagles showed signs of breaking into the top 24 last season when they went 11-1 and lost to national runner-up Georgia Tech in the second round. Every key player returned this year except center Uga Agbai.

"We had a great feeling about the season starting the season," Doornkamp said. "I don't know if we thought we could do this but we're having a lot of fun."

The Eagles have nine games left before the Big East tournament with three against ranked teams — No. 8 Syracuse, No. 16 Pittsburgh and No. 24 Villanova. It will be their only meetings with the season against Syracuse and Pittsburgh and both are at home.

It also will be their last conference matchups with those teams since BC will play in the Atlantic Coast Conference next season.

All the more reason for opponents to want to beat a team leading them behind.

"Coaches and fans definitely are mad at us ever though players have nothing to do with it," Dudley said. "But, hey, that's OK. A conference title would be a good way to go out." But that's hardly guaranteed.

"One loss puts us right into the pack of the Big East and it puts us right into the pack nationally," Doornkamp said. "There's some value in winning with one loss."

For now, there's only one other team with no losses. "If we stick to what our game plan is we should be fine," Smith said. "You can't get caught up in all the hype. You smile about the ranking, but then you get back to business."



# Union approves Sosa trade

## Commissioner still must OK deal of slugger to Orioles

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — The trade that would send Sammy Sosa from the Chicago Cubs to the Baltimore Orioles took a step forward Monday when the players' association approved a key change to his contract that is required to complete the deal.

Chicago would receive Jerry Hairston Jr. and a pair of minor leaguers, second baseman Mike Fontenot and right-handed pitcher Dave Crouthers, in exchange for Sosa and \$12 million. The trade is likely to be finalized between Wednesday afternoon and Friday.

The Cubs contract currently contains a provision that calls for the team's \$18 million option for 2006 to become guaranteed if he is traded and for a \$19 million team option for 2007 to be added, one that would carry a \$4.5 million buyout. As part of the trade, Sosa will sign an addendum to his contract voiding that provision.

Commissioner Bud Selig also must approve the trade because more than \$1 million will change hands in the swap, which the teams put in motion Friday night. The teams started the process of submitting documents outlining the trade to the commissioner's office, but all the necessary paperwork had not been sent in as of Monday night.

To replace some of Sosa's power, the Cubs neared an agreement with free-agent outfielder Jeromy Burnitz on a one-year contract with a mutual option for 2006. That deal wouldn't be finalized until the Sosa trade is completed.

Baltimore would pay just \$5 million of Sosa's \$17 million salary this year, with the Cubs paying \$12 million. The Orioles would assume responsibility for the 2006 option, which Baltimore would be able to buy out for \$4.5 million.

In addition, Chicago would remain responsible for the \$3.5 million severance pay called for in Sosa's contract, which must be given to the seven-time All-Star within 30 days after the trade is finalized. The Cubs would wind up paying \$62.5 million of the \$72 million Sosa was guaranteed in the four-year deal, with the Orioles paying \$9.5 million.

Hairston took his physical Monday in the Phoenix area. Sosa is to take his physical Wednesday or Thursday.

The Cubs and Orioles did not include a 72-hour window for a contract extension. The 36-year-old outfielder has agreed to waive his right to block the trade and will go to the Orioles without an extension.

After the deal is done, Baltimore might try to negotiate a new contract with Sosa.

Selig has twice approved larger salary transfers. Texas agreed last February to send the Yankees \$67 million over seven seasons in the trade that sent Alex Rodriguez to New York for Alfonso Soriano.

In November 2002, Selig approved the Mike Hampton, three-team trade, which involved \$30 million — Colorado agreed to send Florida \$6.5 million over three years, and the Marlins agreed to send that money plus an additional \$23.5 million over three years to Atlanta, which received the pitcher.

The money in the Sosa trade tops the other two big deals Selig approved this winter: The Yankees are paying Arizona \$9 million in the trade that brought Randy Johnson to New York and Los Angeles is paying \$10 million in the deal that sent Shawn Green to the Diamondbacks.

Sosa hit .253 last year, his lowest average since 1997, and had 35 homers and 80 RBIs in 126 games. His 574 homers rank seventh on the career list.

While Cubs fans supported him after he used a corked bat in 2003, he was booed last year when he had a back injury. Then he left the ballpark during the final regular-season game last October after the Cubs had blown a wild-card lead over the final week, and criticized manager Dusty Baker.



The Chicago Cubs would receive Jerry Hairston Jr. and two minor leaguers in exchange for Sammy Sosa, above, and \$12 million in a deal that is likely to be completed this week.

Sosa's first game back in Chicago with the Orioles would be on May 12, the start of a four-game series against the White Sox.

Searching for a replacement for Sosa's offense, Cubs general manager Jim Hendry has talked with Scott Boras, the agent for former White Sox outfielder Magglio Ordonez, and Howard Simon, the agent for Burnitz.

Blue Jays General Manager J.P. Ricciardi said Monday that while Toronto likes Ordonez, "the price is too steep."

"He's looking at close to \$50-or-\$60 million. We'll take a pass," Ricciardi said. "We like the player, but there's an uncertainty with his leg. We're not prepared to commit to a long-term deal."

# Bonds to miss much of spring training after surgery

The Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Barry Bonds constantly complains of feeling old, sore and tired, and then goes out and reaches yet another milestone.

The San Francisco Giants are confident their 40-year-old slugger will stay on track in his pursuit of the home run record despite undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery Monday that will sideline him for much of spring training.

Bonds' right knee is expected to recover in plenty of time for him to resume his chase of Hank Aaron's home run record when the season starts in April.

The seven-time NL MVP had a "minor arthritic cleanup," the Giants said in a statement. Dr. Arthur Ting also reported a small tear in Bonds' meniscus.

"Any time one of your main players goes down with anything there's a concern," Giants trainer Stan Conte said. "But we're going to have enough time. You never know when age is going to be an issue, but this surgery was not extensive."

Conte expects Bonds to return for at least the final two weeks of spring training, and Bonds should be back to full strength before opening day. Had his knee been bothering him during the season, he wouldn't have undergone the procedure, Conte said.



San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Monday.

"It doesn't take him long to get ready," Conte said. "It's good for him not to wear himself out during spring training, which he does sometimes."

Bonds often tires of the day-to-day grind of spring training, both mentally and physically, and his rehabilitation might even provide a respite. Bonds, who had a similar surgery on his left knee in October, will begin rehab Tuesday with Conte at SBC Park.

Then Bonds will report to

Scottsdale, Ariz., along with the Giants' pitchers and catchers on Feb. 17, but will concentrate on his six-week rehab program until mid-March.

Conte said Bonds' knees have responded well to similar arthroscopic operations. Conte has said Bonds has a youthful body for his age.

"He recovers well," Conte said.

Bonds' knee showed signs of arthritis during a similar procedure in 1999, but this surgery revealed

less trouble than the Giants feared. Bonds first complained of pain in his right knee last week.

Bonds finished last season with 703 career homers, trailing only Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). He also became the oldest player in major league history to win an MVP award. Bonds hit .362 to win his second NL batting title in three seasons and shattered the major league record with a .609 on-base percentage, topping the previous mark of .582 he set two years ago.

## Baseball briefs

He walked 232 times, 34 more than the previous record he set in 2002 and more than 100 better than anyone else in baseball this season. His 120 intentional walks obliterated the old mark of 68 that he set in 2002.

## Dodgers make bid for Japanese infielder

**TOKYO** — The Los Angeles Dodgers have made a bid for Japanese infielder Norihiro Nakamura, Japanese baseball officials said Tuesday.

The Japanese baseball commissioner's office informed the Oriz Buffaloes that the Dodgers have made a bid for their third baseman, although the bidding price was not revealed.

The Dodgers now have 30 days to negotiate a contract with Nakamura, who is currently in the United States.

Under the posting system, major league teams can bid for the negotiating rights to Japanese players who have yet to become free agents. Ichiro Suzuki signed with the Seattle Mariners through the same system.

Nakamura joined the Buffaloes in 1992 but was limited to 19 homers and a .247 batting average in 105 games last season due to injury.



## BALCO founder denies leaking clients' testimony

By DAVID KRAVETS  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Victor Conte denied leaking grand jury testimony from Barry Bonds and other prominent athletes Monday, days after his home was raided by the FBI as part of an investigation into the release of the information.

Conte, the founder of the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative who is among four people indicted for allegedly distributing steroids, is being investigated by a grand jury trying to find out who leaked testimony to the San Francisco Chronicle in violation of secrecy rules and a court order.

"I did not ever provide the SF Chronicle with BALCO grand jury transcripts by any means or method," Conte said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "The facts will eventually come out."

Conte was subpoenaed to appear before the San Francisco panel Tuesday and turn over the contents of the hard drive in a computer from Burlington-based BALCO. His attorney, Robert Holley, said late Monday that Conte will not appear, as he and prosecutors are brokering a resolution to that subpoena.

Authorities also raided Conte's San Mateo house Wednesday, seizing another computer, cellular phone and lab records in an attempt to find whether he was the leak. Last year, the grand jury investigation led to indictments of Conte and three other men connected to BALCO.

Because of Wednesday's raid, Conte said in the e-mail that the

government violated the right of secrecy between him and his attorney, Robert Holley, "by confiscating all of the legal documents exchanged by my attorney and myself since the beginning of the case."

Holley said in a court filing late Friday that the computer hard drive the grand jury wants him to hand over also contains trial strategy, including communications between him, Conte, and BALCO vice president James Valente, who is also indicted.

To avoid a conflict of interest, Los Angeles prosecutors are handling the leak investigation because the San Francisco office also had access to the grand jury transcripts, although it denies it was the subject of the leak. Thon Mrozek, a spokesman for federal prosecutors in Los Angeles, declined comment.

Last week's search of Conte's house came nearly two months after a series of news reports about the 2003 grand jury testimony of Bonds, the New York Yankees' Jason Giambi and Jorge Sheffield, and other baseball players. The testimony from star Tim Montgomery was leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle in June. Grand jury testimony is supposed to be secret.

Bonds testified that he used a clear substance and a cream given to him by his trainer who was indicted in the case, though Bonds said he didn't know they were steroids, the Chronicle reported.

Giambi said he injected himself with human growth hormone in 2003 and used steroids for at least three seasons, according to the newspaper.

## Lawyer: Neuheisel was 'playing dodgeball' with investigators

By TIM KORTE  
The Associated Press

KENT, Wash. — Rick Neuheisel became defensive and was "playing dodgeball" when initially questioned by NCAA investigators about gambling on college basketball games, his lawyer told jurors Monday as testimony began in the former Washington football coach's lawsuit.

In opening statements, Neuheisel lawyer Bob Sulkin said his client was set up by NCAA officials seeking to make an example of Neuheisel in suing the NCAA and the university, alleging he was wrongly fired.

Sulkin said Neuheisel was cautious with NCAA investigators during the June 4, 2003, interview. He was summoned to discuss recruiting violations but soon was asked about gambling on NCAA basketball games.

Neuheisel became defensive, and his answers reflected his uneasiness about the situation.

"Rick was cagey, playing dodgeball," Sulkin said.

Sulkin told the King County Superior Court jury that Neuheisel



Neuheisel

later told the truth to the NCAA after consulting with a lawyer, but he took a break in the interview. University lawyer Lou Peterson painted a much different

scenario, saying Neuheisel has himself to blame after being caught in a series of lies. He told jurors the coach signed a contract that allowed him to be fired for acts of dishonesty.

Neuheisel misled his boss, former UW athletic director Barbara Hedges, about his candidacy for the San Francisco 49ers' coaching job in February 2003. He also lied to the news media, claiming he wasn't a candidate.

Neuheisel even issued a news release through Washington's sports information office, denying any connection or interest in the 49ers' job. He later acknowledged he lied, saying he had interviewed but had promised to

honor a confidentiality agreement.

"A confidentiality agreement is not a license to lie," Peterson said.

That would have been grounds to fire Neuheisel, Peterson said, but Hedges gave him another chance. Former university president Lee Huntsman privately told Neuheisel that additional lies wouldn't be tolerated.

"This is a simple, simple case," Peterson said. "He lied once and was told he couldn't do it again. He lied again and was terminated."

NCAA attorney John Aslin also presented his opening remarks, disputing Sulkin's suggestion that the NCAA wanted to get Neuheisel. Aslin said NCAA rules require "full and complete disclosure" by anyone interviewed by NCAA enforcement staff.

"I don't care if you call it dodgeball or a full and complete lie," Aslin told jurors. "After hearing the evidence, you will be absolutely certain he did not give full and complete disclosure."

Neuheisel was recently hired by the NFL's Baltimore Ravens as quarterbacks coach.

## New designer steroid discovered

The Associated Press

LONDON — Canadian scientists uncovered a new steroid designed to avoid detection in standard drug tests.

The World Anti-Doping Agency Tuesday said the substance — called desoxy-methyl-testosterone, or DMT — was identified after a tip from an anonymous whistleblower.

WADA science director Olivier Rabin said the drug had similarities to THG, or tetrahydrogestrinone, a drug at the heart of the BALCO steroid investigation in the United States.

Several track and field stars, including sprinters Kelli White and Dwain Chambers, were banned after THG was unmasked in 2003.

Four men face charges of distributing steroids to elite athletes in the case involving the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

Rabin and Christine Aytotte, director of Montreal's anti-doping lab, said there was no evidence DMT has been used by athletes. They touted the finding as a pre-emptive victory against drug cheats.

"Probably in this case we are able to catch the dopers," Rabin said in a conference call from WADA headquarters in Montreal. "This shows to the dopers how serious we are."

### Female ABA coach fired during game by co-owner

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Adam Sonn and his Nashville Rhythm team want to keep ABA coach McElhiney as their coach and hope the owners of the ABA franchise reverse a decision to fire

### Sports briefs

the first female coach of a men's professional team.

Anthony Sally Anthony walked onto the court during the third quarter of a game Saturday night and fired McElhiney after the coach refused to bench a player. Sonn, who has a broken foot, was sitting beside McElhiney on the bench at the time.

"Why (Anthony) would pull something like this beyond me and it was embarrassing for all parties involved," Sonn said Monday. "I just think that things are going to settle back down, and you know later this week things will get back to normal."

Anthony and her husband, and co-owner, Tony Bucher, didn't return messages left Monday by The Associated Press. Rhythm General Manager Daniel Bucher, Anthony's brother-in-law, also didn't return multiple messages. The team's third owner, Justin Christian, could not be reached for comment.

A pop singer who has her own record label, helped the expansion Rhythm make a national splash last May with the hiring of McElhiney, then in Nashville as 17 under McElhiney.

Saturday's argument involved the playing time of Matt Freije, Vanderbilt's all-time leading scorer who was signed last season after being released by the NBA's New Orleans Hornets. Anthony wanted Freije, who made a reported \$10,000 for two games, to be

McElhiney refused. That's when Anthony fired her.

### World Cup ticket sales off to good start

FRANKFURT, Germany — Ticket sales for next year's World Cup are off to a lively start, with soccer fans from 108 countries applying for more than 10 million available seats within 12 hours.

Between midnight Monday — when tickets went on sale — and noon Tuesday, 53,000 applications came in for 300,000 tickets, an average of six tickets per order, said Wolfgang Niersbach, a vice president of the organizing committee.

All fans ordering tickets will not necessarily get them, with demand far outstripping supply, and a lottery system will determine the lucky winners.

### Tennis stars help raise over \$500,000 for tsunami relief

HOUSTON — Andy Roddick, Tommy Haas, John McEnroe, Chris Evert and Jim Courier played a little fun tennis for a big cause Monday night, helping to raise more than \$518,000 for tsunami relief.

Roddick, who lost to Lleyton Hewitt in the semifinals of the Australian Open, defeated Haas 7-6 (6) in the feature match of the event for the Bush-Clinton Fund for Tsunami Relief.

Courier's television production company put on the event, lost 6-4 to McEnroe in the opening match.

The Houston Chronicle reported in its Tuesday edition that one person who insisted on anonymity paid \$250,000 for 50 seats at the benefit at the Toyota Center and the United States Tennis Association contributed \$25,000. Former President Bush accepted a giant check for \$518,952.

## FRONT RAM BUMPER



The This Tek Front Ram Bumper (FRB) attached to the front of the vehicle enables the HMMWV to easily push or smash objects in its path without any damage being done to the front end. The FRB has been impact tested to 35 MPH without damaging the HMMWV or the bumper. For those HMMWVs with a front extension kit to open the roof with a brush guard attached we will include a modification kit at an additional charge, just let us know.

Optional wire cutters easily mount to the FRB and are easily stored in the front compartments when not required. FRB accommodates the recovery winch if desired.

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# Vrabel's versatility catching on with Patriots



Patriots linebacker Mike Vrabel has gotten a lot more attention since his big game in last year's Super Bowl, in which he caught a touchdown pass and had six tackles.

BY MARK LONG  
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Mike Vrabel has the football neatly displayed back home in Ohio. He carries the memory of him everywhere.

The New England linebacker caught a touchdown pass late in the fourth quarter that helped the Patriots beat Carolina in the Super Bowl last year. Vrabel also had six tackles, two sacks and a forced fumble — playing the game of his life on sports' big stage.

Now he wants a repeat performance.

"If I was lucky enough to go in there and get another one and help us win, then that would top it," Vrabel said Monday.

It could happen. Vrabel has two touchdowns catches this season, including one in the regular-season finale against San Francisco.

Although receiver-turned-cornback Troy Brown gets more attention for playing both ways, Vrabel might still be the team's most versatile player. After all, he makes tackles, covers receivers, rushes quarterbacks and lines up as a tight end in goal-line situations.

"He is very adaptable," coach Bill Belichick said.

A defensive end in college at Ohio

State who moved to linebacker in the NFL, Vrabel is making plans for another transition.

He returned to college last summer to complete his degree in exercise physiology. He finished school because he wants to become a coach after his playing days are over.

"It's tough to recruit kids to come play for you and talk to their parents and say, 'I'm going to make sure your son goes to class and I'm going to make sure he graduates' when you don't have a degree yourself," Vrabel said. "It's tough to tell kids to go to class when they're looking at a coach who hasn't graduated."

Vrabel, who began college as a premed student but switched majors because of the demands of football, graduated in June after completing a biochemistry course.

"I was there with a bunch of nursing students," he said. "There were like 12 girls and me, which wasn't bad. Don't get me wrong. I didn't have to take a whole lot of notes."

Vrabel said his former classmates still keep in touch, writing letters and watching most of his games. They have high expectations for the Super Bowl, and so does Vrabel.

That's a big change from earlier in his career.

He spent four years as a backup

with Pittsburgh because the team had so much depth at linebacker with Jason Gildon, Levon Kirkland, Greg Lloyd and Joey Porter.

But everything changed after he signed with the Patriots. Under the direction of Belichick, Vrabel has developed into one of New England's most productive players.

He had a career-high 76 tackles and 5½ sacks this season. He has 279 tackles and 22½ sacks in four years in New England.

"Mike has been very consistent for us for the last four years," Belichick said. "He does everything well that you want an outside linebacker to do. He's strong. He's physical in the running game. He can rush the passer. He pursues well. He's smart."

All Vrabel needed was an opportunity to play full time.

"He's probably the most intelligent guy on our football team," safety Rodney Harrison said. "The guy is smart. He knows the defense inside and out. Tedy Bruschi is the most instinctive, but Vrabel is the most intelligent."

Maybe that's why he went back to college and why the Patriots had no reservations about using him on offense — evidenced by his game ball from last year's Super Bowl.

"I feel like I've been pretty lucky," Vrabel said. "I've been able to make the most of a great opportunity. That's really what it comes down to."

## Girth of NFL linemen likely to weigh down their future

Brad Culpepper particularly remembers the Thanksgiving dinners, when he would stuff himself silly with food and then two hours later try to find a way to cram some more down his throat.

He was a defensive tackle in the NFL, undersized at 280 pounds in a supersized league. That left Culpepper two choices — eat or find another line of work.

"I had to eat all the time," Culpepper said. "Some of it was just so miserable, but it was all just so I could keep the weight on."

The NFL has always been about size, of course. The more physical a team is, the better chance it has of controlling the line of scrimmage and winning a game.

But players are growing into uncharted territory now, getting so large that some are beginning to question the future of the 330-pound linemen with huge bellies that take up so much of your television screen every Sunday.

These guys aren't just big, they're fat.

From just a handful of 300-pounders only 15 years ago, nearly one of every four players in Sunday's Super Bowl will weigh 300 pounds or more. The Patriots have 12, and the Eagles 11, including 349-pound tackle Tra Thomas.

An unofficial check of expanded NFL rosters at the end of the season turned up 455 players listed at 300 pounds or more, almost all of them linemen.

Fitness guru Mackie Shiltone says some have come to him with high blood pressure, bad cholesterol and weight-related problems like insulin resistance syndrome that can threaten their

Tim Dahlberg



lives.

"In three to five years you're going to see a player have a stroke on national television," Shiltone warns.

"Hypertension is alive and well in the NFL."

For now, age protects most of them. But Culpepper watches the game from afar and wonders: What's going to become of the 330-pound behemoths in the NFL once their playing days are over, their training regiment ends, and their weights keep going up? What is going to happen when these players reach their 40s or 50s? Culpepper is now a lawyer, not a doctor.

A few have dropped already.

Corey Stringer was 335 pounds when he died from heatstroke at a Minnesota Vikings practice in 2001. A year later, former New Orleans Saints defensive lineman Frank Warren died of a heart attack at 43 years old, just five days after taping an HBO interview talking about the dangers of playing football at 300 pounds.

And an autopsy revealed Reggie White's sleep apnea — a condition that primarily affects obese people — might have been a factor in his death in December, also at the age of 43.

The bigger the player, the bigger the health risk.

Culpepper was smart enough to figure that out during a nine-year career that included six years playing alongside Warren Sapp in Tampa Bay. Culpepper

came out of the University in Florida in 1992 weighing 275 pounds at a time when that was a normal weight among defensive linemen.

By the time he retired, though, there were players his size playing linebacker. And Culpepper knew he didn't want to risk the rest of his life living at 280 pounds.

"My first goal was to get down to human weight," he said. "I lost 10 pounds a month for eight months until I got down to 200 pounds."

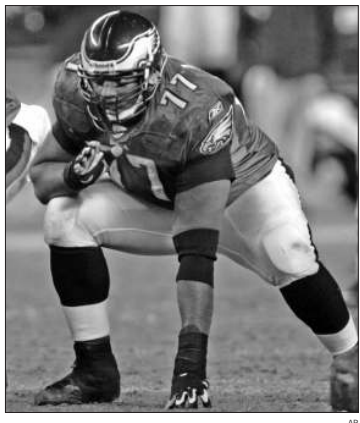
Culpepper, who could barely run around the block when he left the NFL, ran a marathon a year later and has little trouble maintaining a weight he hadn't seen since he was a sophomore in high school.

But most of the players he played with and against won't have that discipline once they leave the league. Already blubbery, they'll go into retirement or seek new careers without any idea how to undo the fat that got them into the league in the first place.

Shiltone, who has a contract with Major League Baseball to help umpires lose weight and a new book called "The Fat Burning Bible," said the linemen who have sought his help all came in with conditions that were already threatening their health.

He said by computing their blood chemistries, blood pressure and waist measurement and plugging it into a model developed by the National Institute of Health, most had a 20 to 30 percent chance of having a stroke or heart attack by the age of 50.

"I tell these linemen that the physical you get to play in the NFL is not a physical to live," Shiltone said. "It is really amazing is the abnormal blood pressures you see in these guys. I



Eagles offensive lineman Artis Hicks is one of the 323 players in the Super Bowl who top 300 pounds. He's listed at 320.

have one who is still in the NFL who came in two years ago with blood pressure of 190 over 110."

Most of the linemen, of course, don't bother to see Shiltone or any other fitness expert. They're paid to be big and fill up lines — and to some, 350 pounds looks good on a resume.

A dozen 300-pounders will be wearing New Super Bowl rings after Sunday, something Culpepper

never got during his time in the league.

He has something else, something he thinks is more important.

"I'm so happy with my life now compared to when I was playing in the NFL," Culpepper said. "I'm healthy now."

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for the Associated Press. Write to him at: tdahlberg@ap.org

# Eagles' showman vows to play on grand stage

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — T.O.'s timeout is over.

Brushing aside his doctor's advice and — some might say — common sense, Terrell Owens returned to the practice field Monday, determined to pull off the most improbable play of his career by making it to the Super Bowl.

He ran the required routes. He made the necessary cuts. And — is this a sign of what's to come? — Sunday against the defending champion New England Patriots?

He caught the passes that were thrown his way.

Not bad for a guy who went down 43 days earlier with a grotesque injury to his right leg, apparently done until next season.

"The way I play on Sunday," Owens said Tuesday. "I know the type person I am. I have a lot of faith in my ability. I feel great. I'm proving a lot of people wrong. The sky is the limit for me. There are no limitations."

C'mon, this shouldn't be all that surprising. And it's something Owens promised his teammates moments after he was injured.

"I told the guys in the locker room 'You guys just get us into the Super Bowl and I'll be there,'" he said. "They've done their job. Now it's up to me."

Owens' teammates were happy to hear the receiver's plans.

"That's great. He's another piece of the puzzle," defensive tackle Corey Simon said. "He's not the whole puzzle. And if he wasn't out there, he'd be on the sidelines cheering for us, but we're glad to have him."

The greatest showman in football was certainly meant for the grandest stage. The guy who pulled out a Sharpie after a touchdown and gawked at Nicolellette Sheridan for a pregame push had

to at least give it a shot.

"It's always a lift when you can get anyone out there, an added weapon," Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb said. "He did make some big plays for us. He did an excellent job of coming in and presenting a different type of feel for our passing attack."

Last week, Dr. Mark Myerson, the surgeon who operated on Owens' right ankle in December, said he would not clear the All-Pro receiver to suit up against the Patriots.

But there he was Monday, in uniform at the University of North Florida. While Owens took part in less than one-third of the team's 30 plays, he got a pass each time he ran a route.

"It's shocking when you see the injury he had and how far he's come," Pro Bowl safety Michael Lewis said.

In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Francisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs.

Then came that horrific December day when Owens severely sprained his ankle and broke his leg in a game against Dallas.

Myerson inserted two screws in Owens' ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured. Owens was told after surgery that he just might have an outside chance of returning for the Super Bowl. Owens was 6½ weeks away at the time. But he rehabbed vigorously, hoping to help Philadelphia win its first NFL championship since 1960.

"If T.O. says he's going to play, he's going to play," Eagles linebacker Jeremiah Trotter said Tuesday. "T.O. is going over the top. I think T.O. is going to come out and surprise a lot of people."

The Patriots downplayed the possibility of Owens' return.

"We've got to prepare for all



Terrell Owens sprained his ankle and broke his leg during a game on Dec. 19 and doctors have advised him not to play in the Super Bowl.

the players," coach Bill Belichick said. "We expect everybody to be at their best for this game. That's the only way we ever think about it. We never expect anything less from our opponents."

After a checkup last week in Baltimore, Myerson said that while he's pleased with Owens' recuperation, the operation requires a recovery period of eight to 10 weeks. Myerson added that any attempt to accelerate the rehabilitation process poses the same risk for injury.

But try telling that to Owens, who insisted on testing his leg this week.

"We limited what he did, but he did it well, and he did it with the team," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "He moved around pretty well. I'll have to see how he does before we decide whether he'll play."

The final decision on Owens' status will come down to the player, Reid and the team's medical staff.

"Could the same injury occur?" Yes," Reid said. "But he won't damage it any further than he already has."

"He looked pretty smooth out there," tight end L.J. Smith said. "He's not trying to push it. He's getting his timing down and he caught a couple balls."

The injury to Owens was a huge blow for a team that dominated the NFC and clinched the No. 1 seed in the conference after just 14 games. Owens invigorated the Eagles with his attitude, enthusiasm and stellar performance, adding a swagger to a team that desperately needed a personality.

With him, the offense was extremely potent, averaging 25.4 points in 14 games. After Owens was injured, the Eagles lost the next two regular-season games in which most starters hardly played and others rested.

But the Eagles are 2-0 without Owens in games that matter. While the offense hasn't been dominant without Owens, they've scored 27 points in each of their playoff games against Minnesota and Atlanta.

"You have to account for him when he is on the field," teammate Hank Fraley said, "because he is a playmaker."

## Swagger: Philly savoring trip to football's biggest show

SWAGGER, FROM BACK PAGE

move with camcorders, making sure to savor their trip. The Patriots were more businesslike, hardly flinching at the sight of all those cameras and microphones.

"Just because we have camcorders doesn't mean that we are caught up in it," McNabb said. "This is footage. This is something we can show our grandkids. ... When you have been to a couple of Super Bowls, obviously it is kind of a thing that you are used to. We are not used to it, but we are not going to sit in a room and kick our feet up and start dwelling on being here at the Super Bowl. We have a job to do. This is a loose bunch and we've been having fun."

The Eagles are used to skeptics. After Owens went down with a severe ankle injury last month, critics questioned whether Philadelphia can reach the Super Bowl without its main threat on offense.

But the only two games they've played without him that mattered, the Eagles scored 27 points in each and averaged 25 yards a game.

"We proved all the so-called experts wrong," wideout Freddie Mitchell said.

Though most of the players don't have Super Bowl experience, Reid understands what it takes to win a championship. He was an assistant coach under Mike Holmgren when the team went to the Super Bowl after Super Bowls following the 1996-97 seasons.

Reid kept notes on the Packers' itinerary, and other information he's used for reference since the Eagles won the NFC title. Just in case some players need a reminder, Reid always has a Super Bowl championship ring from Green Bay's victory over New England eight years ago.

"It's something the players can see," Reid said. "They're playing for the ring. That's an important thing to them."

# Browns are still quietly waiting for their Romeo

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — New England Patriots defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel hasn't spoken to the Cleveland Browns about their coaching vacancy in nearly a month. He'll be hearing from them soon enough.

Win or lose against the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl, Crennel is expected to be offered the Browns' job shortly after the final seconds tick off the clock on Super Bowl XLII.

If he accepts the position, and the Browns are counting on the 37-year-old to do so, Crennel will be introduced next week as the 11th full-time coach — and first black coach — in Cleveland's storied history.

Although Crennel hasn't left yet, Patriots owner Robert Kraft seems prepared for his departure.



"There's nothing positive on Romeo, I don't know that for a fact," Kraft said after arriving in Florida amid reports that Crennel would join the Browns. "Part of your success is if you have good people, they will be hired away. Romeo is awesome. He's calm and solid. He deserves to be a head coach."

NFL rules have restricted the Browns from publicly commenting on their coaching search. They have also been unable to negotiate with Crennel or his agent, Joe Linta, until the AFC champion Patriots complete their season.

The sides have not talked since Jan. 7 when Cleveland fired as the club's No. 1 choice following his interview with owner Randy Lerner, president John Collins and new general manager Phil Savage, who

was hired that day.

Philadelphia offensive coordinator Brad Childress is the only other coaching candidate interviewed by the Browns whose season is not over. Cleveland also interviewed offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie, the club's interim coach, and Steelers offensive line coach Russ Grimm.

If Cleveland had intended to hire any other candidate, the Browns would have done so already.

Linta did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

## Clarett a no-show for skills event

MIAMI — Maurice Clarett stiff-armed another commitment, reinforcing doubts about his reliability and fitness with the NFL scouting combine three weeks away.

The elusive, reclusive former Ohio State running back had been scheduled to partic-

ipate in the college football all-star challenge, an eight-player skills event held Monday by Fox TV at Dolphins Stadium for broadcast Saturday.

But he snubbed the new agent, Steve Feldman, who told organizers late last week that Clarett was pulling out.

"It was completely my decision," Feldman said. "He wanted to be there, but from a safety standpoint, it was not logical to take a chance that he might twist something or pull something or damage something that would prevent him from showing off his skills."

At the combine a year ago, Clarett showed up overweight and declined to work out. He'll be eligible for the draft in April after his legal bid to enter the NFL last year was overturned by a federal court. That's he hasn't played since being suspended by Ohio State following the 2002 season.



## SPORTS



Union approves Sosa's trade to O's;  
Knee surgery to sideline Bonds  
for much of spring training, Page 28

## A media target in Jacksonville



Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens, far left, attracts a throng of reporters during Super Bowl XXXIX Media Day at Alltel Stadium on Tuesday. Owens, who hasn't played since suffering a severe ankle injury on Dec. 19, said, "I will play on Sunday." See story on Page 31.

# Philadelphia's swagger intact

Eagles enter Super Bowl riding a wave of confidence

BY ROB MAADDI  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles haven't lost their swagger.

Despite being seven-point underdogs against the New England Patriots on Sunday, the Eagles are walking around as though they're favored to win the Super Bowl.

"We're not just happy to be here, we're here to win the game," center Hank Fraley said Monday. This is Philadelphia's first trip to the Super Bowl in 24 years, and just five players — defensive end Jevon Kearse and right tackle Jon Runyan are the only starters — have played in the big game.

The Eagles haven't won a championship since 1960, while the Patriots are seeking their third title in four years.

Still, this is a confident, even cocky, bunch.

"They think they're as good as any team in the NFL," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "They understand that you have to prove



Philadelphia quarterback Donovan McNabb said, "We are not going to sit in a room and kick our feet up and start dwelling on being here at the Super Bowl. We have a job to do. This is a loose bunch and we've been having fun."

that each and every Sunday. I think that's how they're approaching this."

The Eagles (15-3) dominated the NFC this season, winning nine games by double-digit margins, including five by at least 21 points. Even without injured All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens, they outscored Minnesota and Atlanta 54-24 in the playoffs.



Eagles coach Andy Reid said of his team, "They think they're as good as any team in the NFL."

But the Patriots (16-2) are the defending champions, and they shut down Peyton Manning and the rest of the Indianapolis Colts in the playoffs and knocked off the Steelers in Pittsburgh in the AFC championship.

"When you play this game, somebody has to be an underdog. At times, the underdogs are the ones that shock you," Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb said. "It's an exciting time for us. We're going to go out there and do our job and have fun."

Plenty of underdogs have won the Super Bowl, including the Patriots. New England was nearly a



Eagles wide receiver Freddie Mitchell said, "We proved all the so-called experts wrong."

two-touchdown underdog against St. Louis when it won its first championship three years ago.

The point spread makes little difference to the Eagles.

"I don't think you need to use that as motivation in a game as big as the Super Bowl," Fraley said. "People aren't expecting us to win this game, so I guess you could use being a seven-point underdog as motivation, but it's the biggest game of the year and it's what you play for all year so that's motivation enough."

While the Eagles insist they're not overwhelmed by the magnitude of this game, they certainly acted as if they haven't been here before. On the flight down, players captured each other's every



Second-half comeback boosts No. 3 Kansas; Air Force wins 24th consecutive home game

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Without Allen, first-place Sonics are bowled over by Spurs

Page 27



Phoenix's flashy Nash emerging as midseason favorite for MVP

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SEE SWAGGER ON PAGE 31